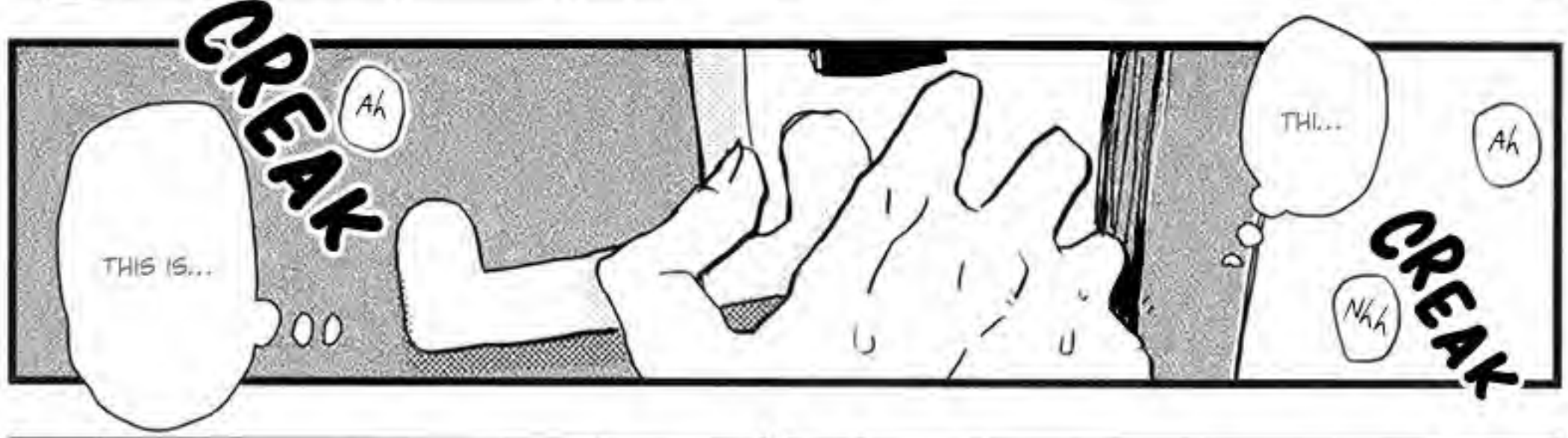
There was a personnel shift in our company,

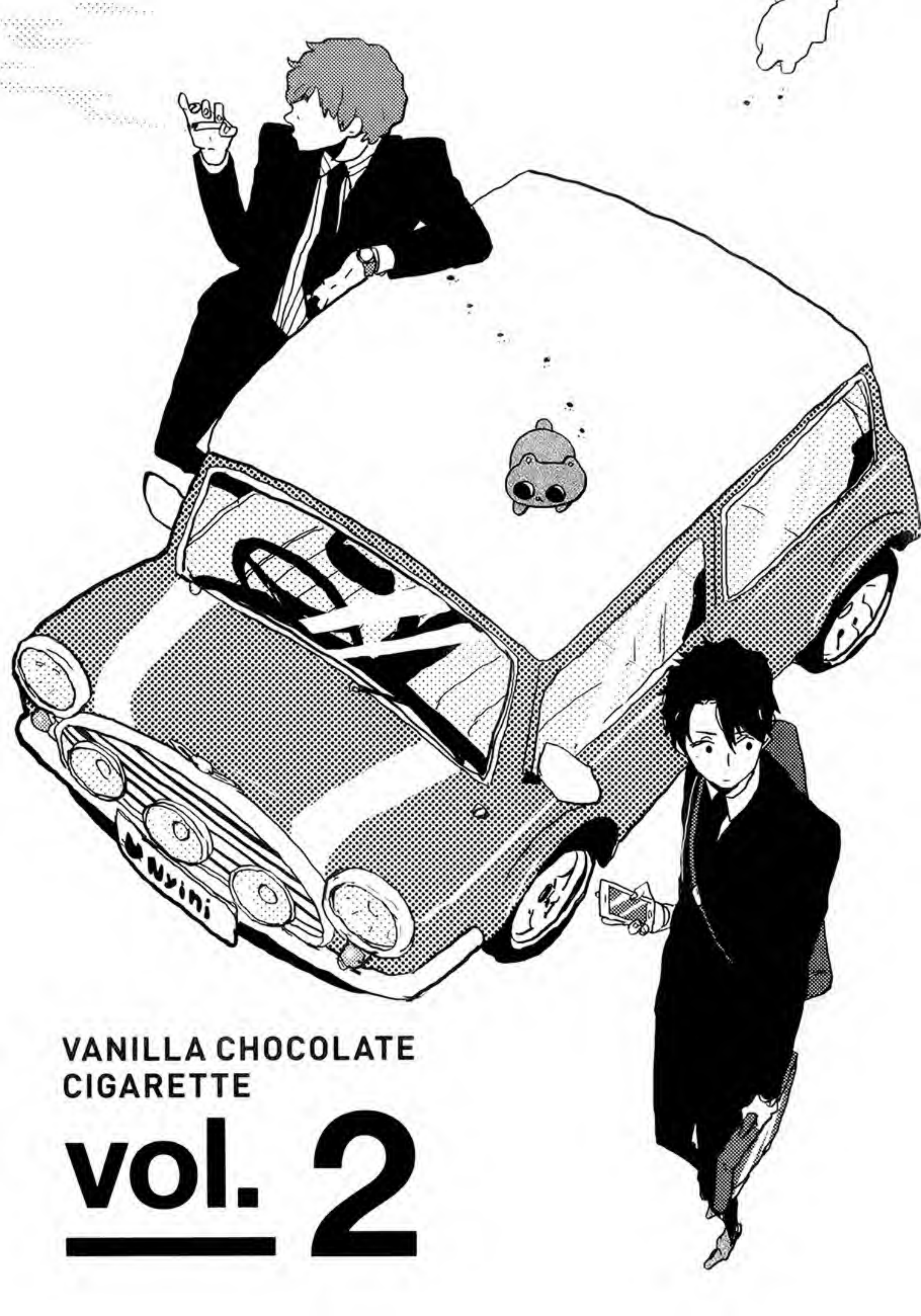
so I thought I'd greet the neighbors, wearing slip-ons I bought from the supermarket for 980 yen.

A person like me, who didn't have many hobbies, quickly finished clearing the few bags I had,

which demanded me to move residences.

CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
No
CREAK
Ah
Ahn
CREAK
CREAK
Ah
Ah
There
I love it.





VANILLA CHOCOLATE CIGARETTE

vol. 2

By private railway, the place is three stations away from my workplace.

Once you get off at the station, you'll see a gigantic supermarket.

Up the slope, there stands a shopping district that seems to have been around for a long while.

That's the location of the apartment I'm gonna be living in starting today.

According to the real estate broker, this town has many residential districts and is recommended for newly wed households and women living alone.

Tsubaki Ryouji. 26-years old.

Who would have thought that this is how it will turn out on the first day of moving in?

SLIDE

Welcome.

Please sit wherever you like.

I LIKE TOWNS WITH SHOPPING DISTRICTS.

Udon and soba

Italian

Chinese

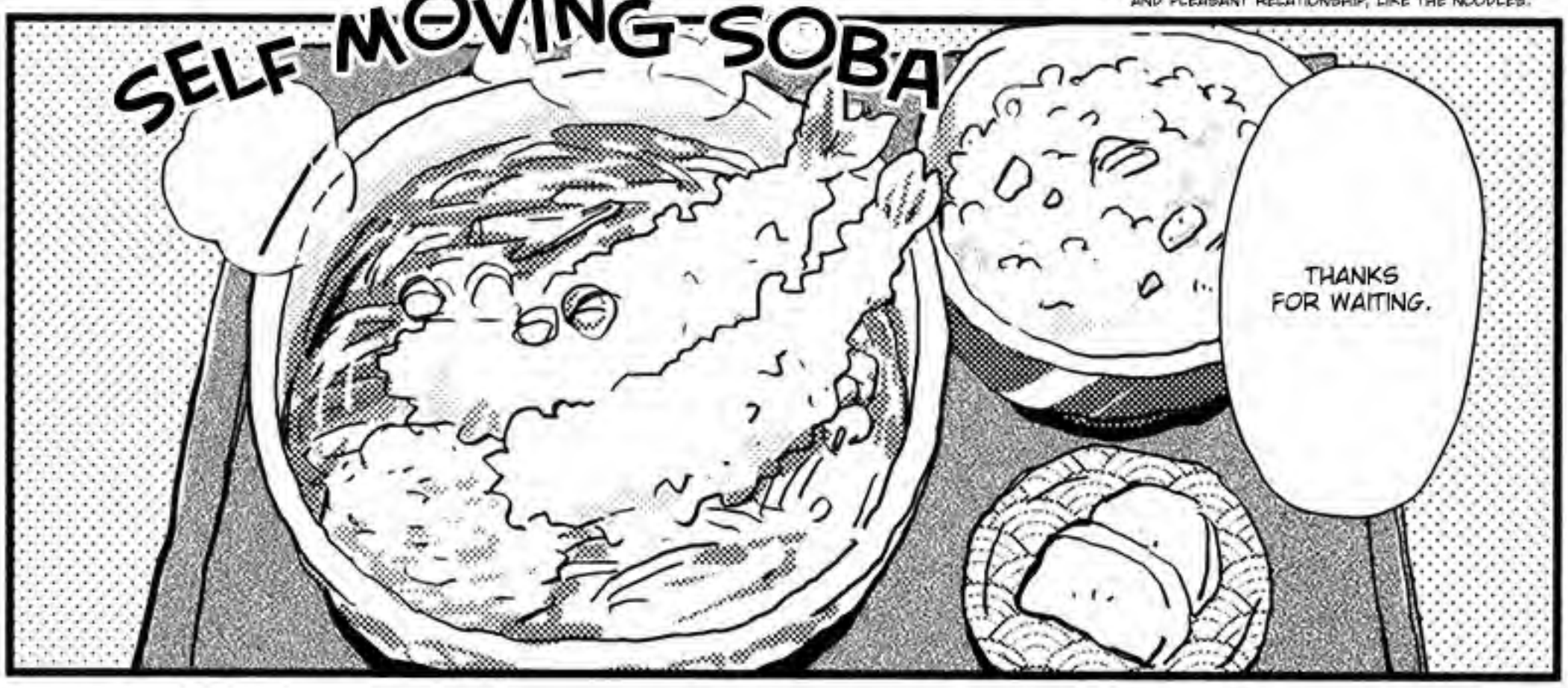
Fancy cafes

TA-NIN-DON
OYA-KO-DON
HAI-KARA
LET'S HAVE SOME SOBA. SOBA...
WHATEVER, I GUESS.
But I don't think it's alright.
CAN I HAVE SOME COLD WATER?
EX...
IT WAS LIGHT WHEN YOU STARTED. YOU'RE DRINKING MORE?
RYOUKO-CHAN, ONE MORE ORDER OF BEER.
EX-CUSE...
A TANINDON IS...?
COMING!
EX-CU...
AH.
CAN I PLEASE HAVE THE BILL?
Base-ball out-fielder
KANO HIT THE BALL!
EXCUSE ME.
UHHH...
Hard to react.
The looker.
THE CUSTOMER OVER HERE IS CALLING FOR YOU!
RYOUKO-CHAN!
Uhh, um...

I'm...

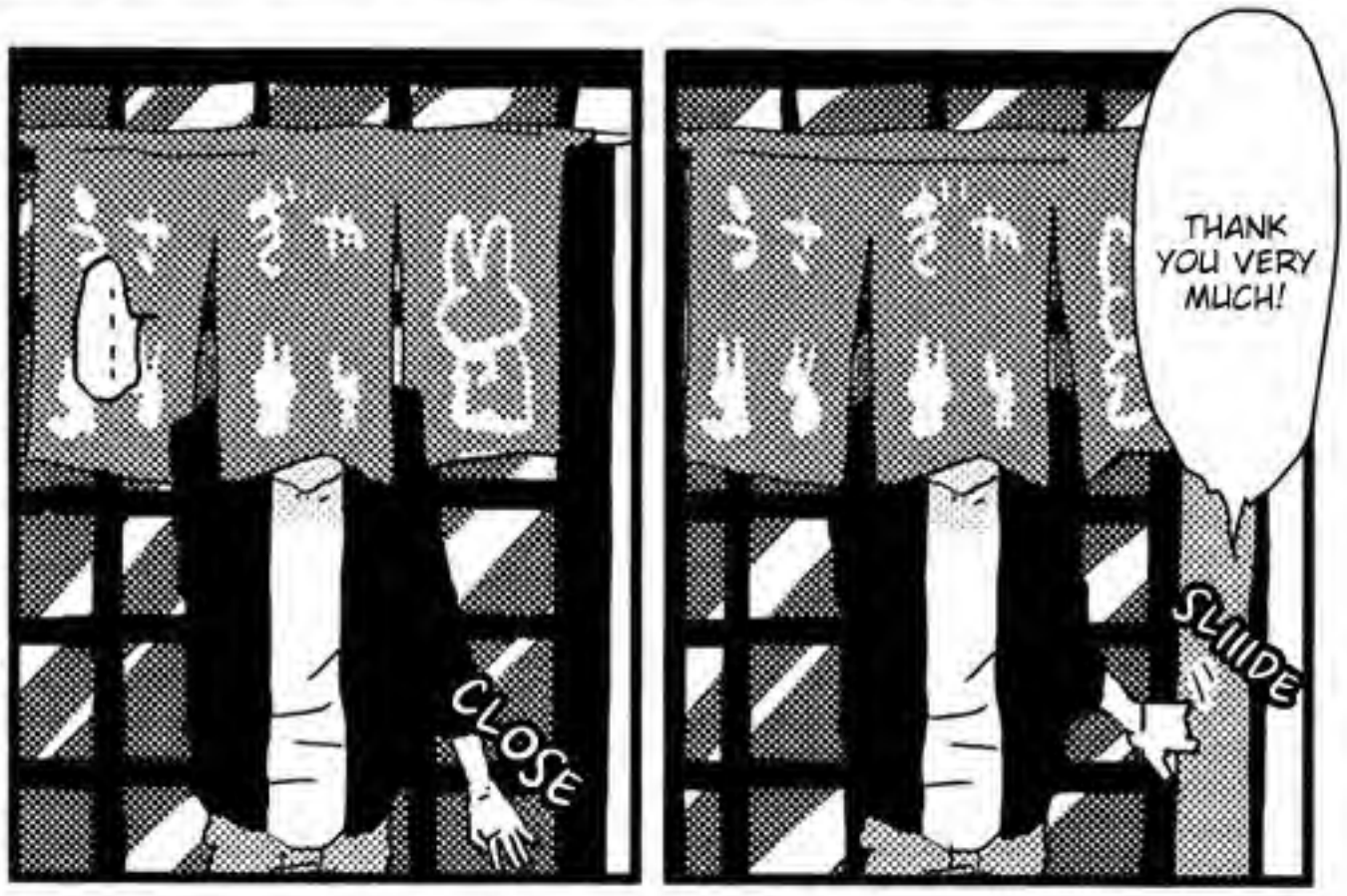
...pathetic.

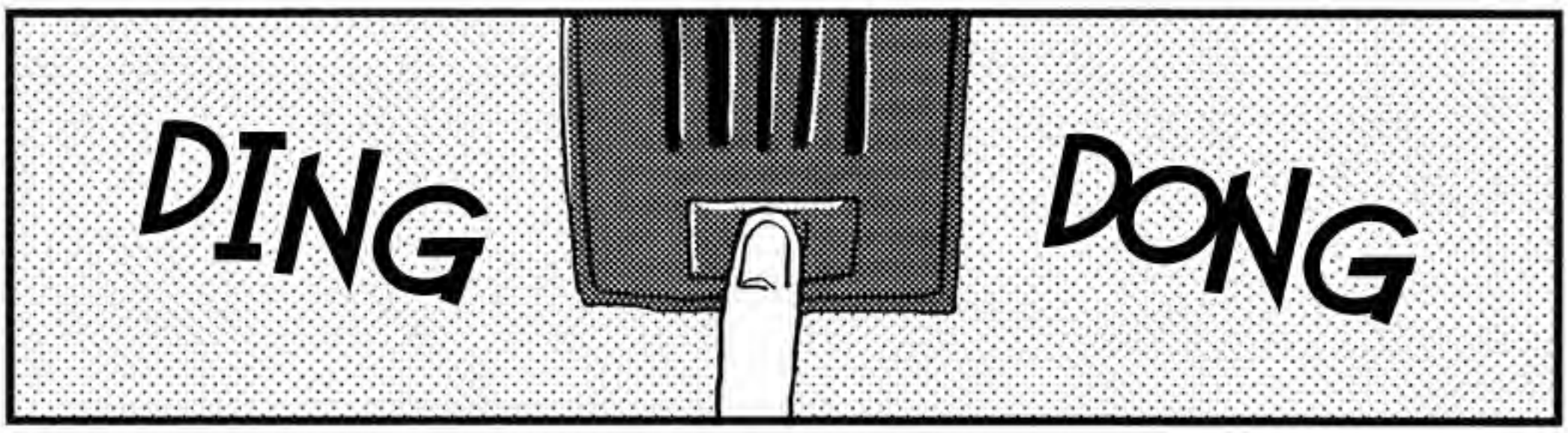
T/N: HIKKOSHI SOBA (MOVING BUCKWHEAT NOODLES) IS USUALLY GIVEN BY NEIGHBORS AS A GIFT, FOR A LONG AND PLEASANT RELATIONSHIP, LIKE THE NOODLES.



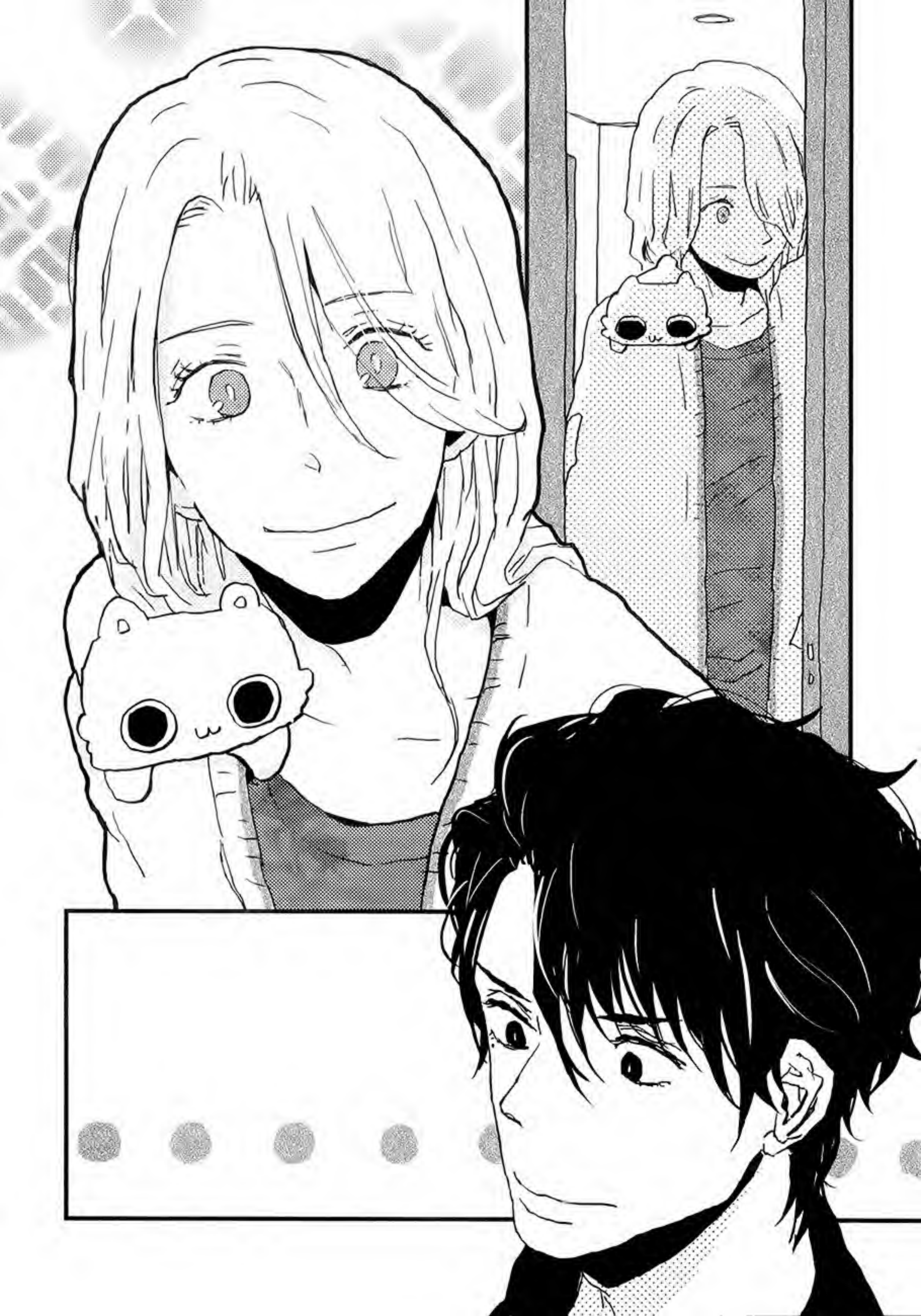
I wonder...

...if I can survive in this town.





T/N: KATSUO DASHI - STOCK MADE FROM DRIED BONITO FLAKES



This is unexpected.

He has an Adam's apple and large hands, so he's gotta be a man.

He's wearing makeup.

Wait, a man?

A woman...

T/N: TSUBAKI (椿) IS THE CHARACTER FORMED WHEN YOU COMBINE 'KI (木)' WITH 'HARU (春).'

'CAUSE THAT'S MY PLACE.

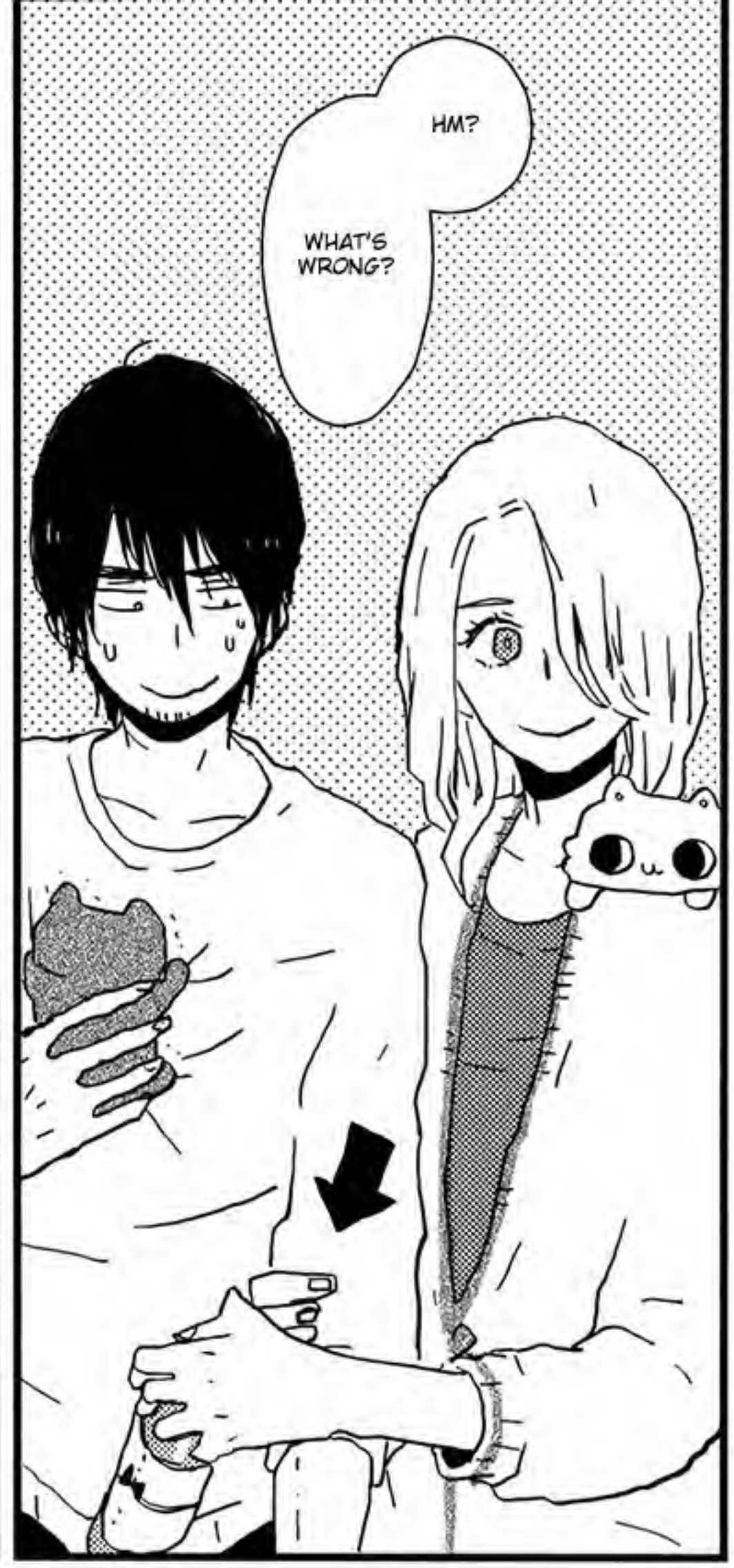
Back then...

Don't tell me that was...

Hmmm?

Nonono.

Waitwaitwait.



I wonder if I can survive in this town.

Anyhow...

For a while after the job transfer, I was busy with the takeover and doing my rounds of courtesy calls.

I ordered it for lunch the day I was around that company. Should we get that?

Ordered it anyway

THEY USE CHICKEN BREASTS BUT IT'S REALLY SOFT, AND THE EGG YOLK IS THICK.

I RECOMMEND THE OYAKODON IN THIS SHOP.

Well, the bustle makes a good diversion.

In charge of transfer

Azuma

BUT WOW, THE PERSON IN CHARGE THIS TIME IS A DELIGHT!

WHEN I WAS IN SALES, THE PERSON IN CHARGE WAS QUITE DIFFICULT TO APPROACH.

ALINTIE, WE'LL HAVE TWO OYA-KODON.

Okay!

THEY DON'T HAVE A TANIN-DON.

I'm mentally tired...

Ugh...

TSUBAKI-KUN, YOU'RE GOOD-LOOKING!

I had a similar conversation a few days ago.

NO,

THAT'S NOT...

AND BECAUSE YOU LOOK FETCHING, IT MAKES ONE SOPPY...

This is the first time I've seen that toad-like shop owner look like a woman.

PUSHY

YEAH?

THEN WHAT ABOUT YOUR PRIVATE LIFE?

DID YOU FIGHT WITH YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?

PUSHY

You stood out in the welcome party at the office.

NO, I'M SINGLE RIGHT NOW.

HE'S BEING PUSHY...

PUSHY

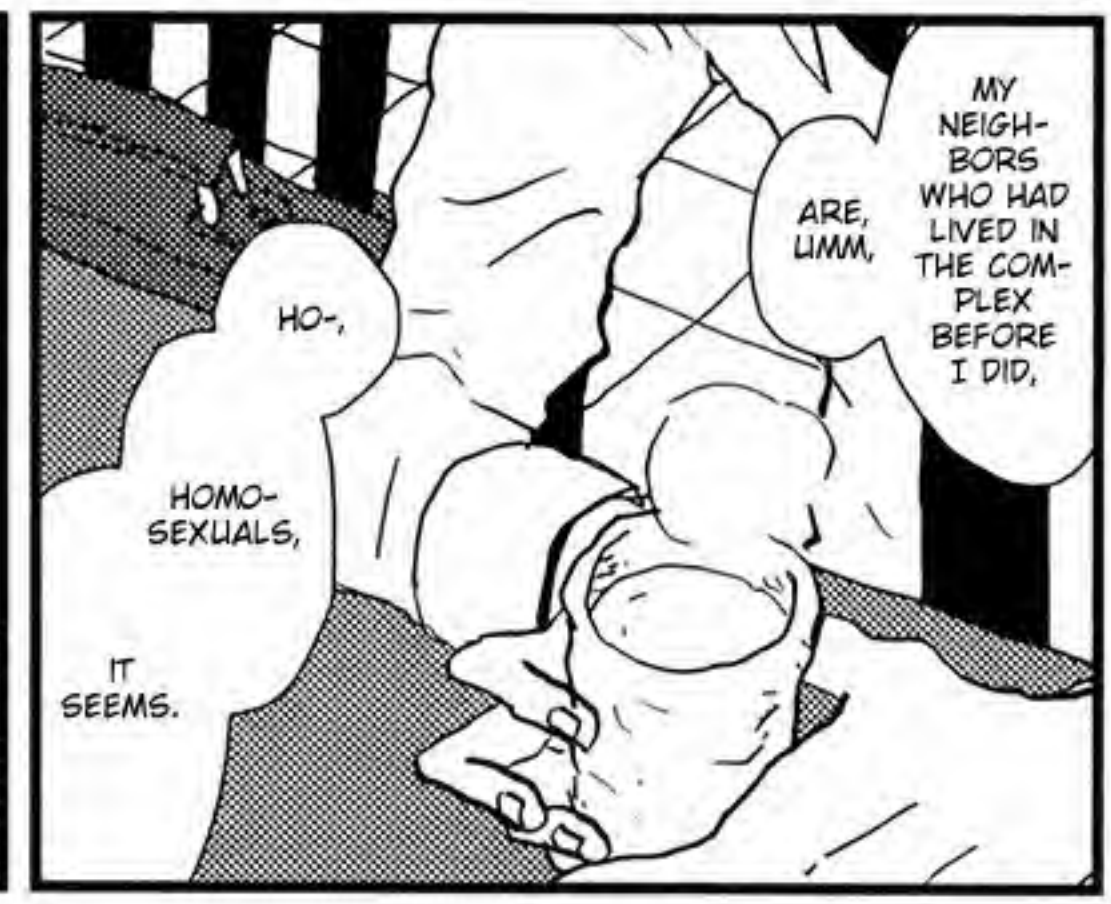
EVERYONE IN THE WORKPLACE IS NICE.

HUH?

NO, I'M FINE.

ARE YOU HAVING PROBS?

IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE YOU CAME HERE, RIGHT?



SO,
WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE ARE THEY?
EH?

HMMM.

what the hell?
AHAHA!
ONE OF THEM WAS A BEAUTY.
wink

TO BE HONEST, I WAS EXTREMELY SHOCKED, I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER HOW OUR CONVERSATION WENT.

AND THEN...
UMM,

AND THEN?

IT'S NOT GOOD TO COME UP WITH HASTY CONCLUSIONS WITHOUT KNOWING THE OTHER PARTY.

UGH...

Thanks for the wait.

HEY, THAT'S JUST YOUR PREJUDICE.

YOU'RE IN SALES, RIGHT?

HUH?

TALK TO THEM...

TA-

Thanks.

IF YOU'RE NOT OPPOSED TO IT, WHY DON'T YOU TRY TALKING TO THEM MORE?

STEAM

Thanks for the meal.

OPEN PEOPLE ARE CAPABLE OF BEING HONEST ABOUT THEIR OWN FEELINGS.

IN FACT, THEY LIVE THEIR OWN WAY AND CHERISH THEIR PARTNERS.

I ALSO HAVE GAY FRIENDS AND THEY'RE JUST NORMAL, YOU KNOW?

ON THE CONTRARY, THEY'RE THE TYPE YOU CAN BE FRANK WITH.

AND I JUST THINK THAT'S AN AMAZING THING.

YOU THINK SO?
THANKS.
wow
Thanks for the meal.
If,
IF YOU ASK ME, YOU'RE QUITE AMAZING YOURSELF.
WANTED TO ASK IF HE KNEW ABOUT THE TANIN-DON.
...
NEVERMIND.
HUH?
AZUMA-SAN,
DO YOU...
Be open...
...to my own feelings... huh?
HIT
Ahaha
EVEN THOUGH YOU WORK IN SALES.
YOU'RE REALLY RESERVED, AREN'T YOU, TSUBAKI-KUN?
Let's do our best in the afternoon.
Yeah.
Well,
he's got that part right.

The type to get hired in sales for their face.

That's why I was anxious if I would survive in this town or not.

And striking a conversation is not my strong point either.

Because of that, it's difficult for me to remember faces.

I'm bad at looking people in the eyes.

But Azuma-san was right.

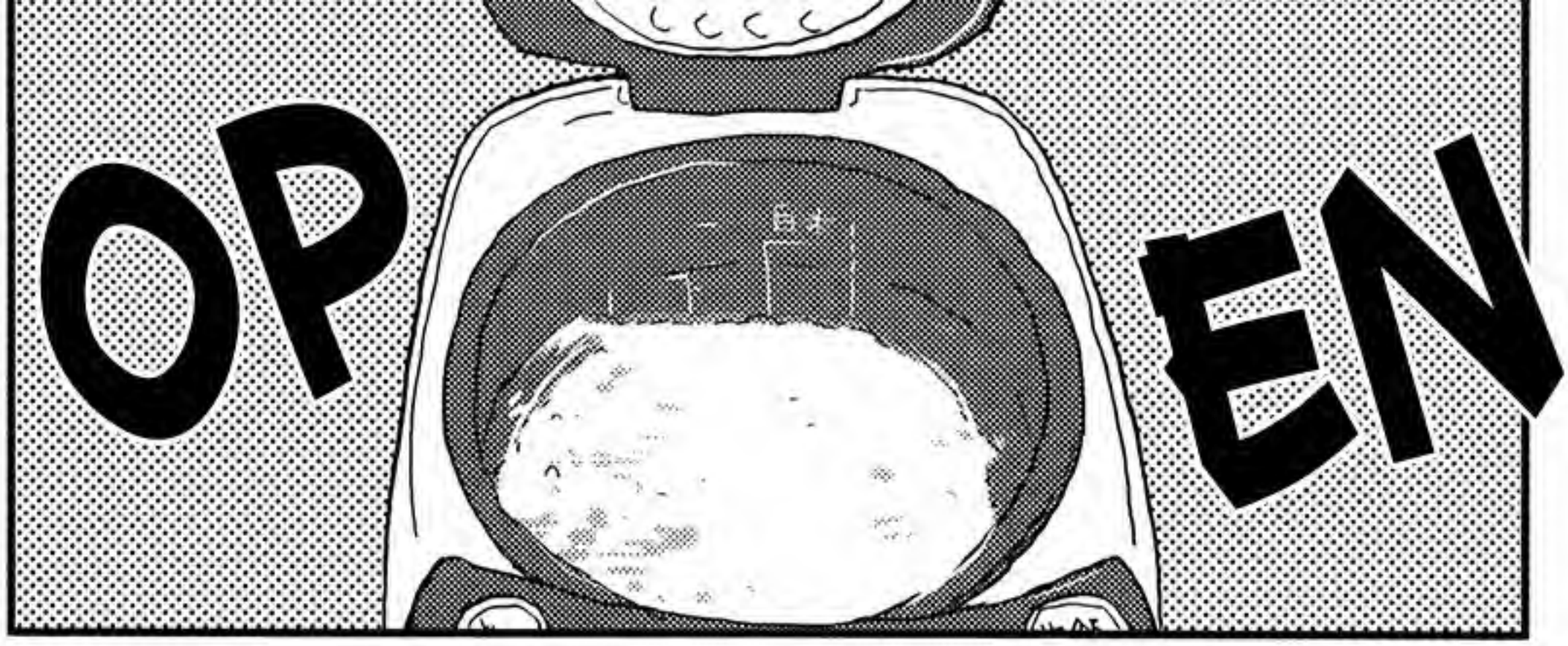
It was just my prejudice.

I wonder if I'd have the same thinking...

...if it were a man and woman...

...back then?

T/N: SHOUGAYAKI - GINGER & PORK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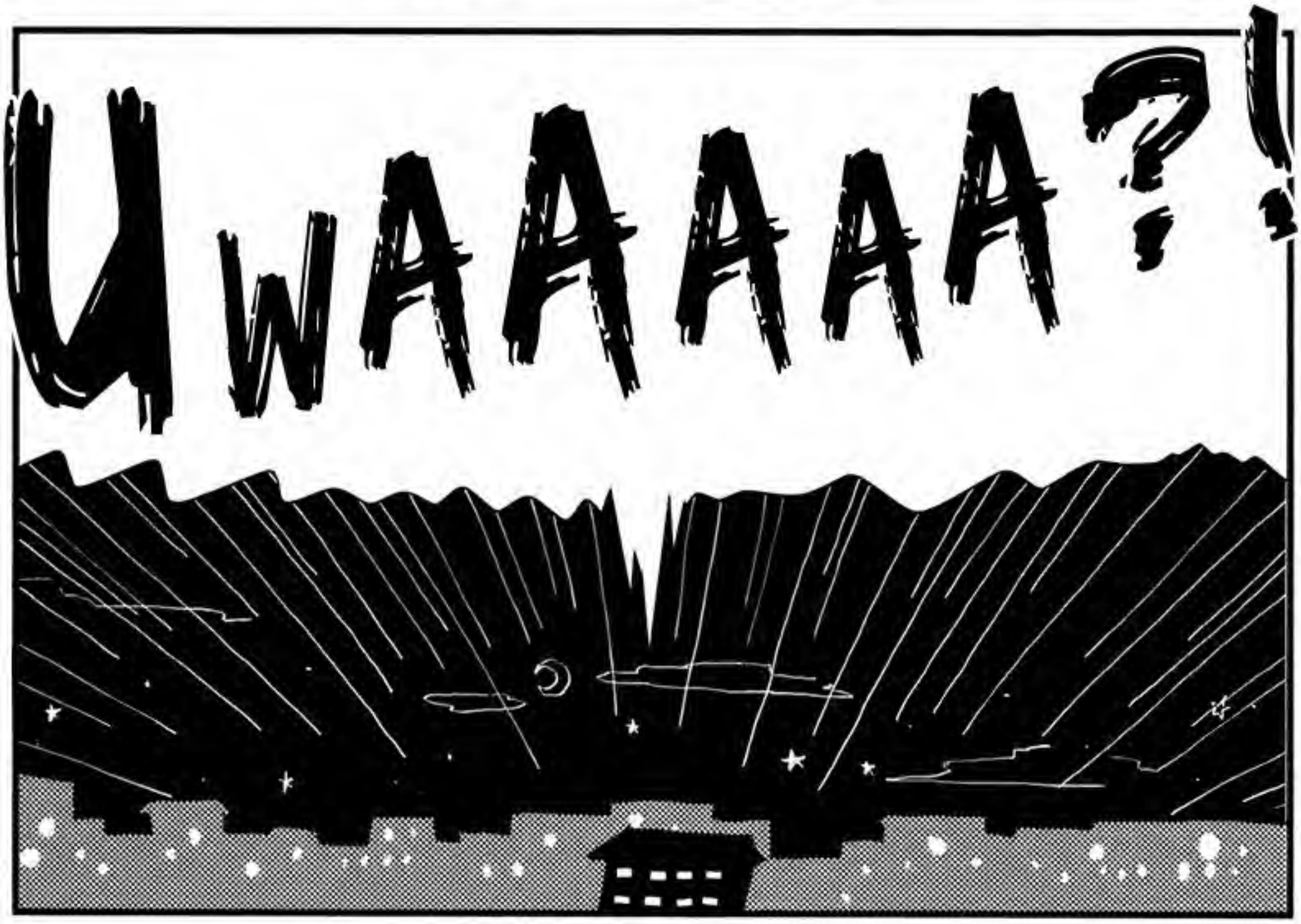
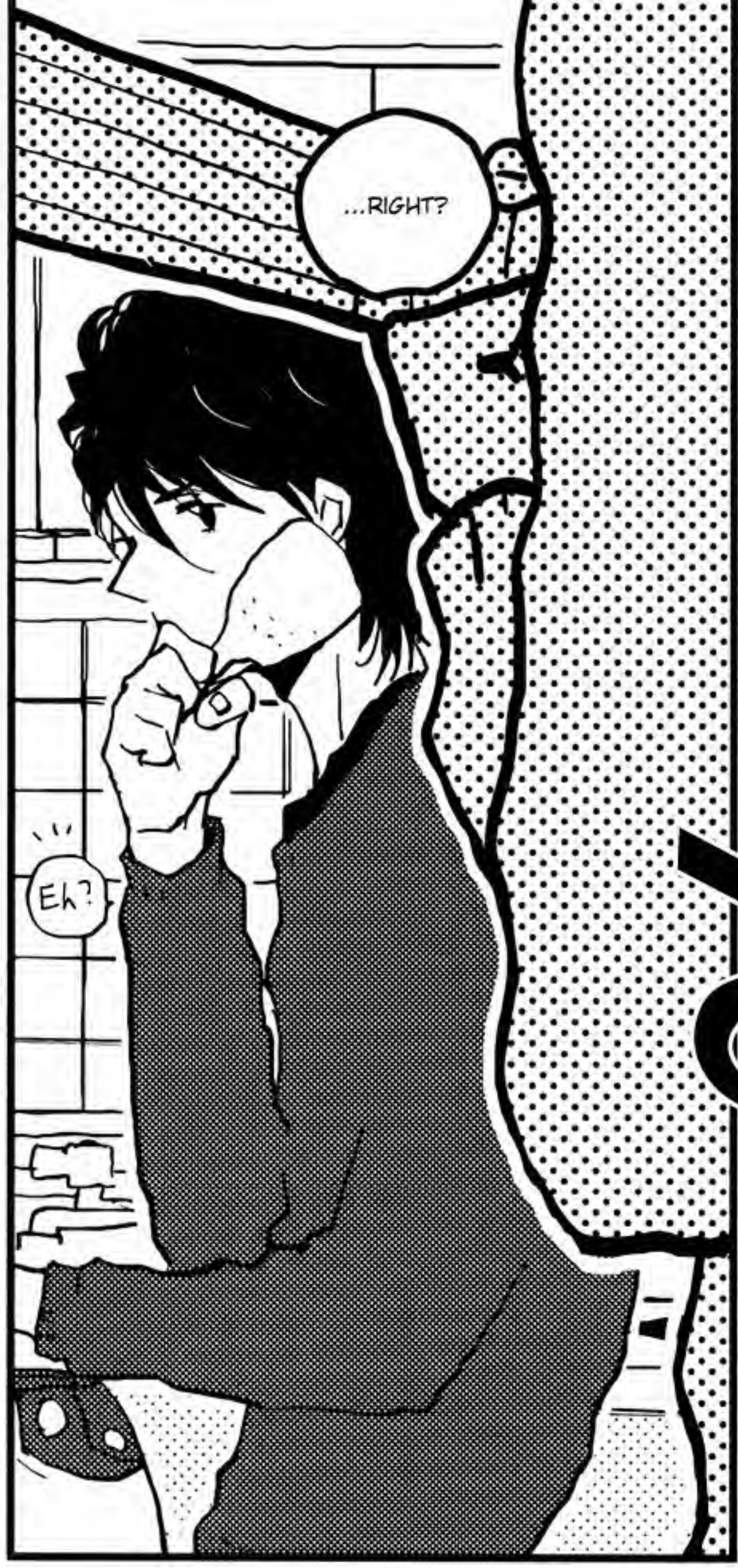
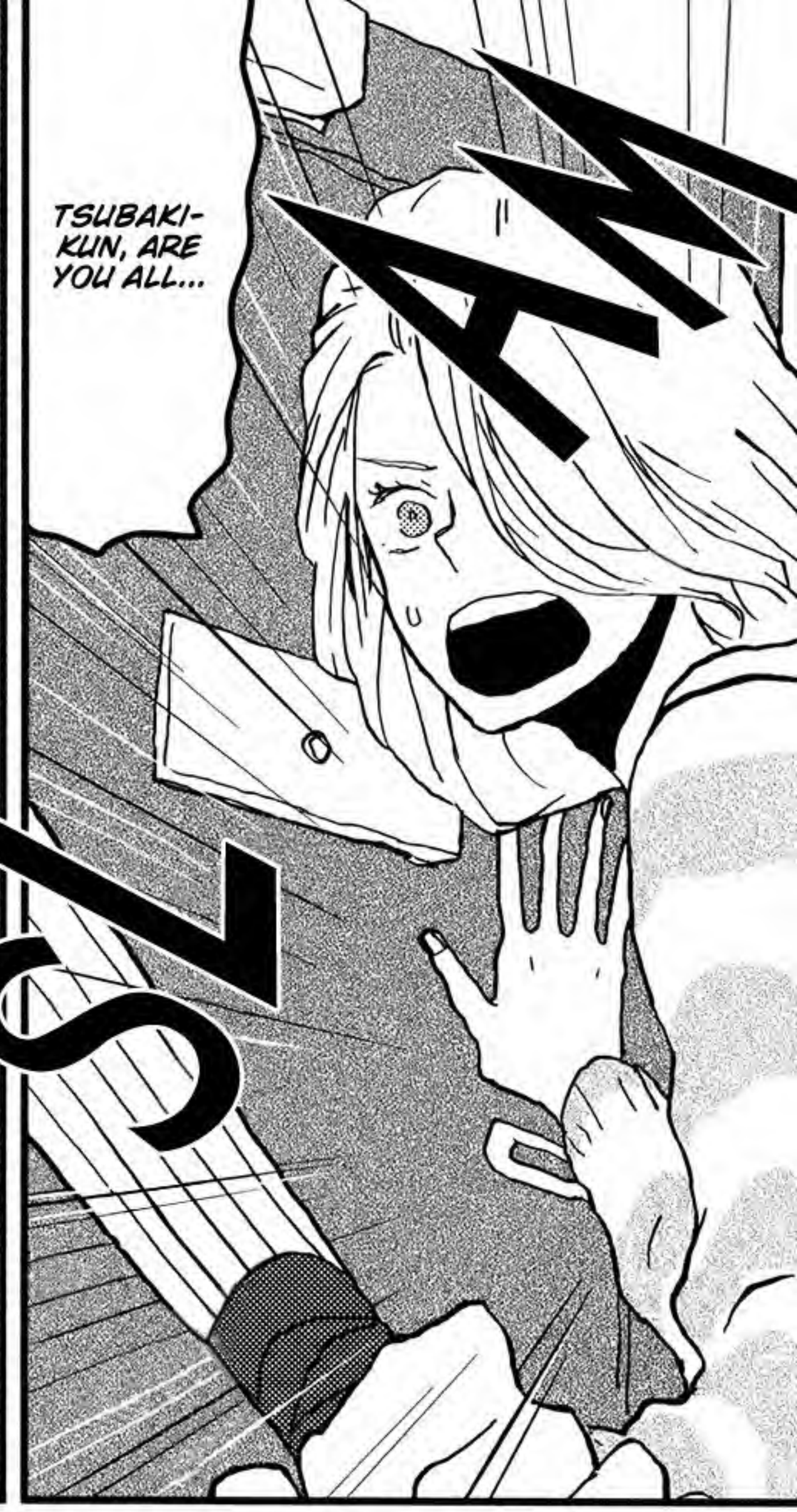

UWAAAAA?!

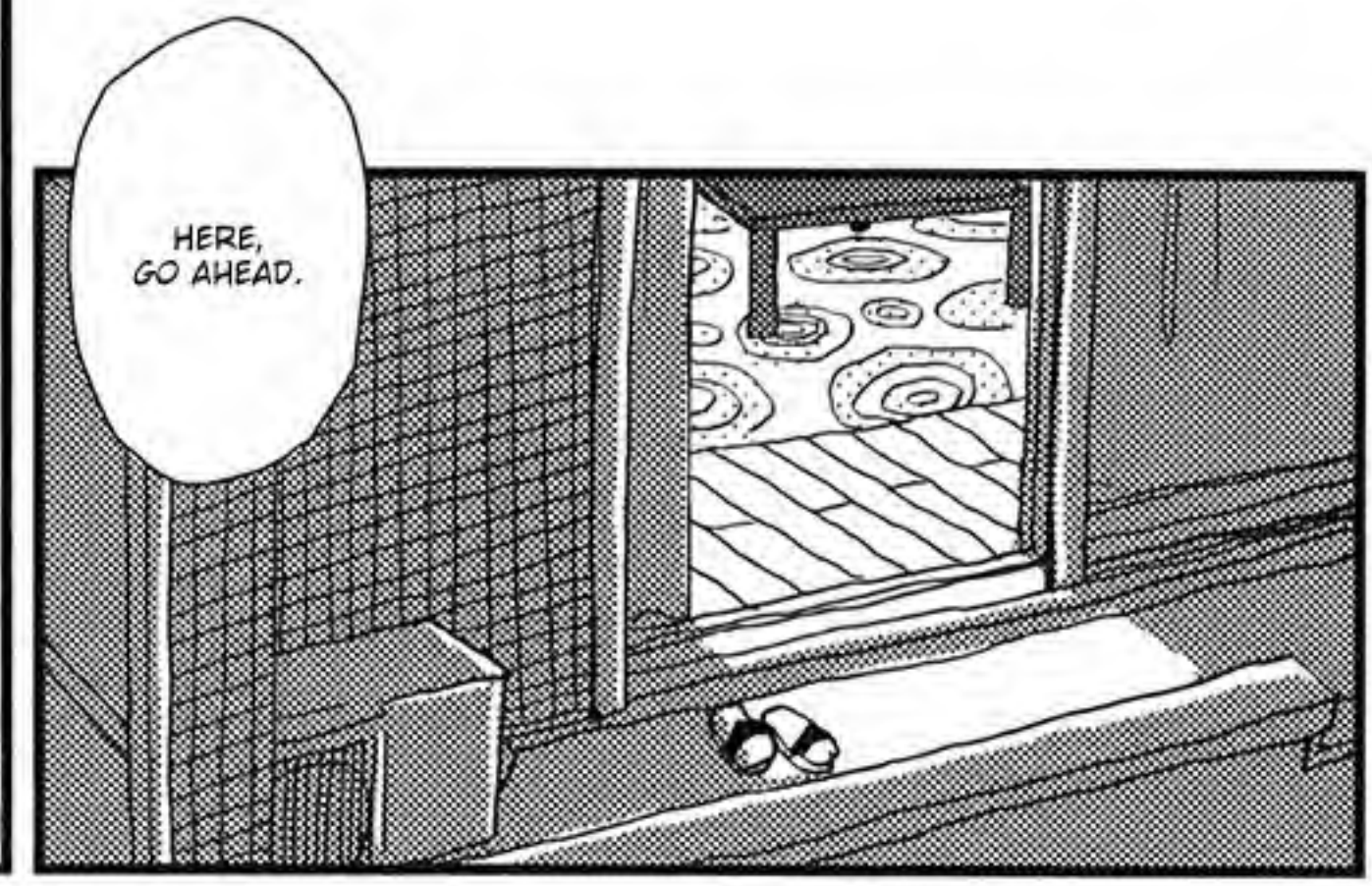

...RIGHT?
Eh?


TSUBAKI-KUN, ARE YOU ALL...
ARE

SILENCE

A HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

I'M SORRY...


HERE, GO AHEAD.

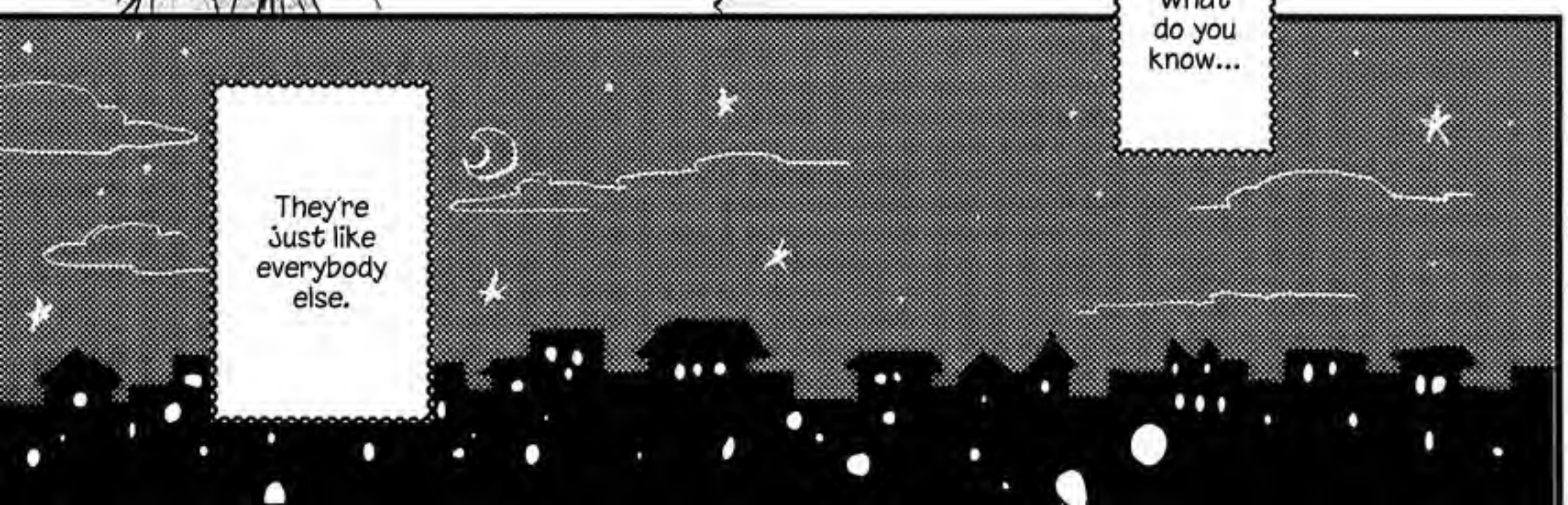
THANKS FOR THE MEAL.
YOUR VOICE.
Eat up.
HE INVITED ME OVER TO HIS PLACE, BUT THIS IS TOYOHASHI-SAN'S,
isn't it?

AND INSTEAD OF "I'M SORRY," IT SHOULD BE "THANK YOU."
To the Eight Million Gods!
IT'S TOO SMALL.

THANKS FOR THE MEAL!
THERE.
Toyohashi, you're scary.

Eh, ah! Thank you!
Tsubaki-kun, your shougayaki is good.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE...
...SINCE I HAD SOMEONE ELSE'S HOMEMADE CURRY.
Beef cut curry


What do you know...
They're just like everybody else.

MAY I ASK WHAT A TANINDON IS?

EXCUSE ME.

A CHICKEN AND EGG MAKES AN OYAKODON, RIGHT?

OYAKO = chicken + egg

OH.

IT'S THAT.

THAT'S WHY BEEF AND EGG MAKES A TANIN-DON!

TANIN = beef + egg

T/N: OYAKO IS LIT. PARENT (CHICKEN) AND CHILD (EGG). TANIN MEANS OTHERS.

SO IT'S A PUN...

MISTER, I REMEMBER YOU WERE HERE LAST TIME.

Okay.

THEN I'LL HAVE THAT.

WELCOME.

DID YOU JUST MOVE IN?
NEW CUSTOMERS ALWAYS ASK THE SAME QUESTION.

THANK YOU FOR WAITING.

Sure.
Thanks for the meal.

The egg yolk is golden.
SNAP

OUR RESTAURANT IS KANSAI-STYLE, SO THE STOCK TASTES A LITTLE SWEET.
OOH.
IT'S REALLY BEEF AND EGG.
Shichimi goes well with it.

chew
chew

...IT'S TASTY.

THUNK

SLAP

THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL!

Thank you very much.

It's been a
week since I moved
to this town,

and I have a
strong feeling I'll
survive here.

end

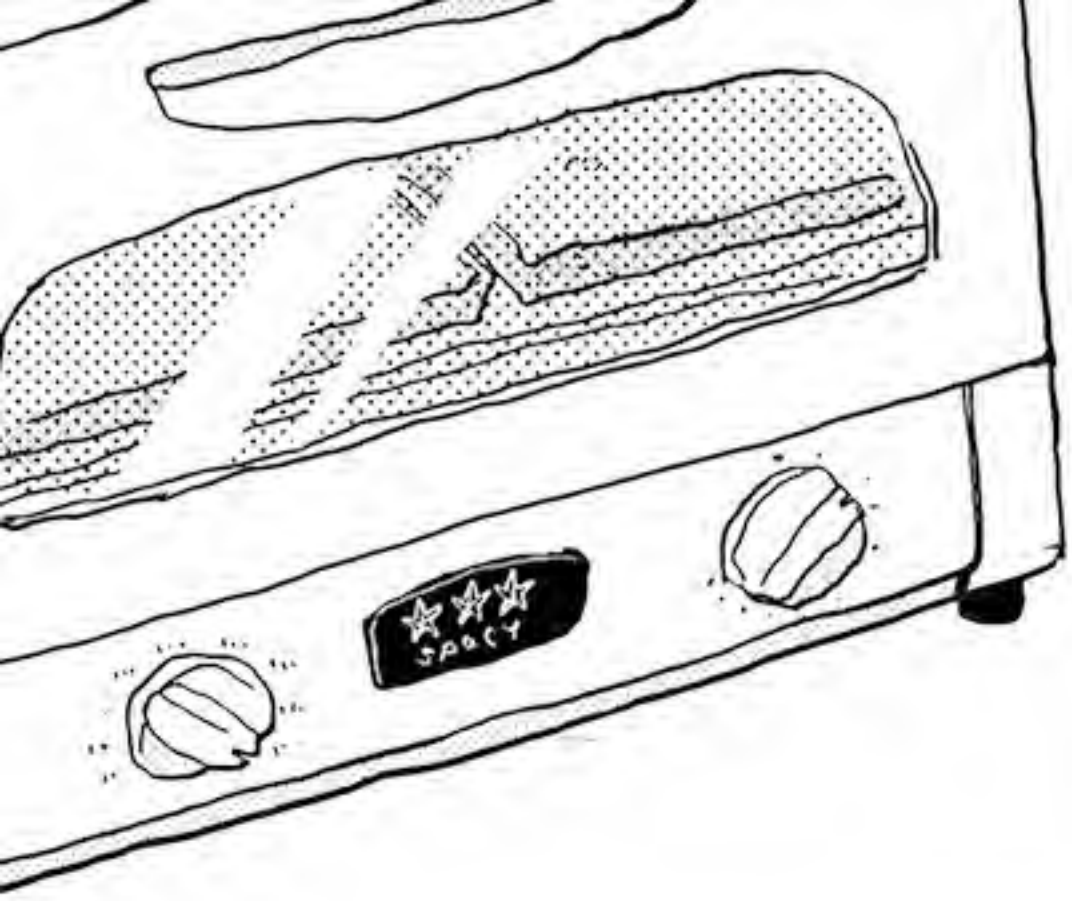
"DO YOU REALLY LOVE ME?"

"I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT GOES ON INSIDE YOUR HEAD, RYOUJI."

I obviously wouldn't date you if I didn't.

Why would you ask that...?

VANILLA CHOCOLATE CIGARETTE



tick
tick
tick

I dream the same dream whenever my environment changes.

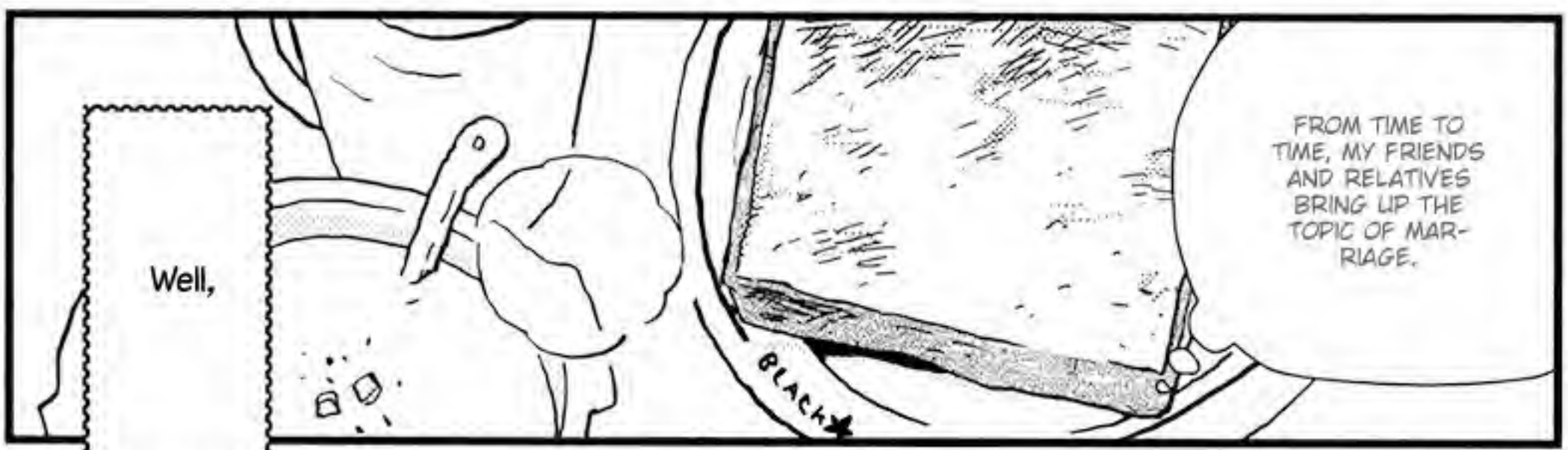
The type to smear butter in the middle of toasting the bread.

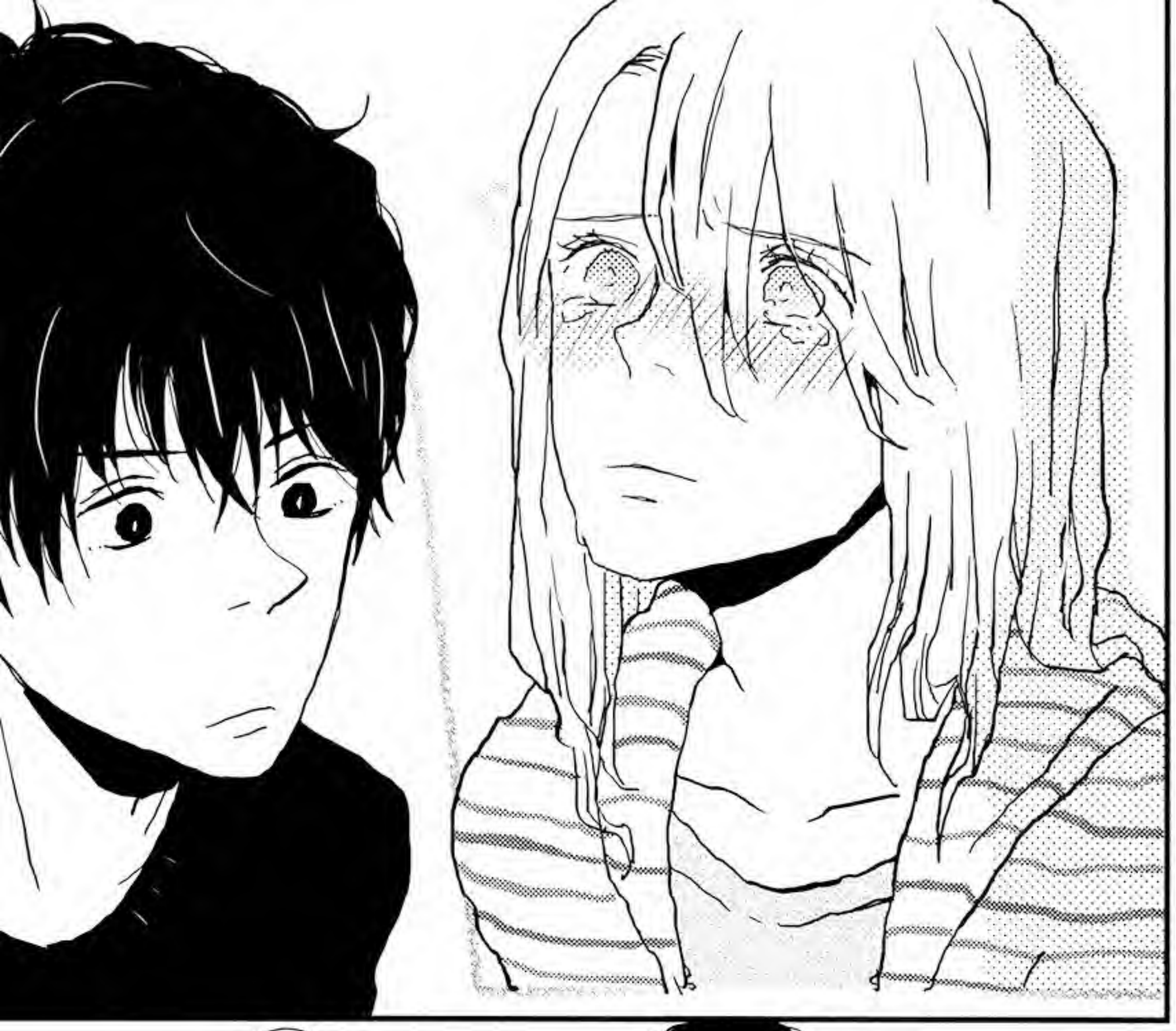
Now you've mentioned it, I've been single for a few years now.

I've probably forgotten...

...how that thing called "love," feels.

DING ☆





TOYOHASHI IS...
TOYOHASHI IS...
Eh?
Eh?
Ehhh?

It's nothing.

I'm sorry.

CHOCO PULLED THE CORD, YOU SEE.

PHEEEW.

SORRY 'BOUT THIS.

TAKATSUKI

DVD

Pandaso

DONE SETTING.

SO HE CAN'T SET THE DVD PLAYER WHEN "TOYOHASHI-SAN IS" GONE.

Trivial.

But,

if you ask me...

GLANCE

The company's fairly well-known

chatter chatter

TOYOHASHI WORKS IN...

...A GAME COMPANY.

Can you believe a guy with that mug, just made an otome game?

REALLY...

chatter

He also works the night shift.

I'm sorry for making you do this in so early in the morning.

THIS JUST HAD TO HAPPEN WHEN TOYOHASHI'S WORKING ON A DAY OFF.

Thanks.

ME?

I'M A NOVELIST.

Takatsuki-san's the person who makes you curious about what he does.

His place is all pretty too.

SO I GET ALL UP IN MY HEAD ON HOW TO ACT AROUND OTHERS...

I'M THE YOUNGEST GUY IN A FAMILY WITH THREE SISTERS,

YOU DO LOOK LIKE YOU'D HAVE A SISTER.

A beauty.

NO, BUT...

OH YEAH, YOU WERE ALSO SITTING IN SEIZA THAT TIME IN TOYOHASHI'S PLACE.

I'M SORRY...

MINDFUL, AREN'T YOU...

Why are you apologizing?

HOW ABOUT THIS SATURDAY?

In Toyohashi's place.

LET'S DRINK AGAIN SOME OTHER TIME.

...

DUUN

I STEPPED ON A LANDMINE!!!

Ahaha

WELL, HE'S MY BOYFRIEND.

YOU TWO HAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP.

With Toyohashi-san.

A sofa that makes a cat weak

HUH?

REALLY?

BUT I GUESS THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE THAT.

I THOUGHT THAT WAS SOMETHING YOU'D TEND TO HIDE...

Even though the shocked one is me.

Toyohashi's prolly the type to hide it.

MAYBE I SEEM LIKE THE TYPE TO LIE AND GO ALONG WITH OTHERS.

BUT I THINK LETTING GO IS BETTER THAN STAYING AND HAVING THEM DOUBT YOU.

I WORK FREELANCE, SO I FIND IT EASIER IF PEOPLE KNOW.

BUT...

Ahaha!

MY PARENTS STILL REFUSE TO MEET ME AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, THOUGH.

THAT'S HEAVY TALK. WHY ARE YOU...?

IF NOT, THEN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH TOYOHASHI WOULDN'T BE LIKE THIS.

WHEN I IMAGINE A LIFE OF LYING,

I'M CONFIDENT MY SITUATION NOW IS DEFINITELY HAPPIER.

That's right.

And I wouldn't meet Vanilla and Choco either

"Surprisingly," you say...

YOU'RE A MINDFUL GUY, BUT THERE ARE THINGS YOU CAN'T WRAP YOUR HEAD AROUND, HUH.

THERE'S SURPRISINGLY A LOT OF THINGS TO CONSIDER.

SHOCK

TAKATSUKI KAZUYA...

THAT AUTHOR WHO CAME OUT?

I see...

HE ALSO HAS A PRETTY FACE, SO HE APPEARS IN WOMEN'S MAGAZINES A LOT...

HMMM.

He's on TV some-times.

I'VE GOT A NUMBER OF THEIR BOOKS.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO READ THEIR WORK, I CAN LEND IT TO YOU.

The receptionist, Hikaru-chan. (Big breasts)

HIKARU-CHAN,

HE'S OFF-LIMITS.

Hmm.

I like this book.

HE'S UNEXPECTEDLY FAMOUS...

HUH?!
Right?
'CUZ THIS GUY HAS A CUTE GIRLFRIEND.

You were lying to begin with!
I'm... I'm sorry.
IT'D MAKE ME A LIAR IF YOU DON'T DENY IT!
Irrational

OH, OKAY.
HUH?!
PUU
Seriously...
LET'S EAT OUT TOO, TSUBAKI-SAN!!!
PUU
You don't have a girlfriend, right?!

WHY WOULD YOU EVEN SAY THAT IN THE FIRST PLACE?!
BECAUSE TSUBAKI-KUN AND I ARE CLOSE!
Fufufu...
...

OH, WHAT'S UP? YOU'RE GOING DRINKING?

I WANNA COME, TOO.

Who...

Whoooa.

Me too.

Eh?! ||When?||

NO WAY! YOU CAN'T COME, AZUMA-SAN!

I want to open Tsubaki-kun's closed off heart.

HEY, I'M COMING TOO!

He was able to attract so many people in an instant.

What's up?

Hikaru-chan, you're at it again.

The more, the merrier, right?

Tsubaki-san, let's go out with just the two of us!

But I was the one who invited him!

YAP YAP YAP

He casually confirmed if I had a girlfriend or not.

At least, that's what I think...

and he kinda supported the receptionist in a skillful manner.

I thought we'd be in sales together,

given his knack for swaying people with his words,

OH, RIGHT. TSUBAKI-KUN...

HAVE YOU RESOLVED THAT THING FROM LAST TIME?

What "thing" is that?

!

?

YOU THINK SO?

THANKS.

I guess?

THE PARAGON OF SALES!!!

YOU'RE DEFINITELY AMAZING, AZUMA-SAN...

And on top of it, he's even considerate towards me.

...CAUSED YOU TROUBLE THE OTHER DAY.

I..

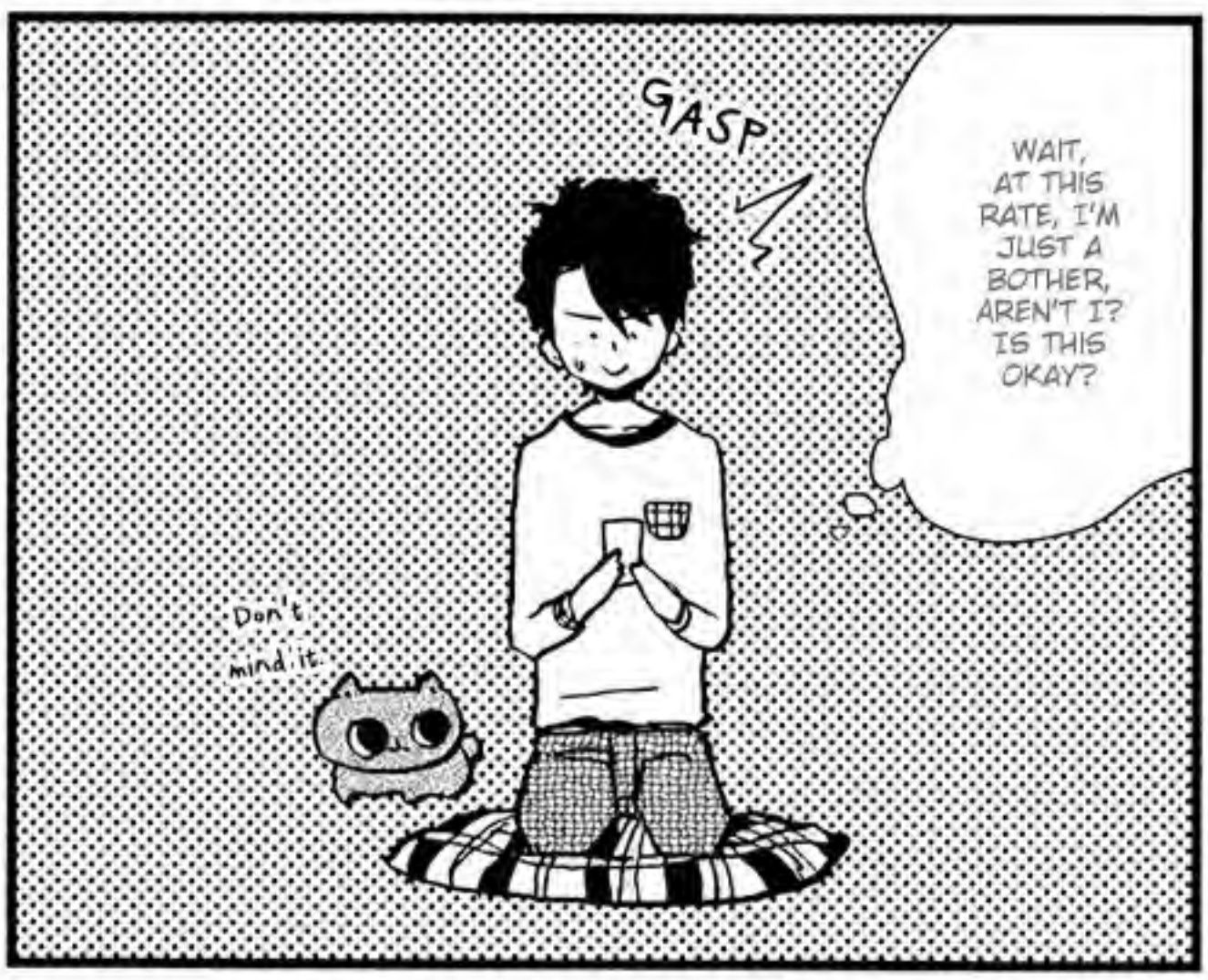
NYAN&DESUCA

sneak sneak

YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE IT, BUT YOU'RE QUITE THE PICKY EATER.
Fufufu
WHAT A CHILD!

NO, I'M GRATEFUL.
There are others I can eat.
Waaa!
I'M-I'M SORRY...! I SHOULD'VE ASKED FIRST!

35-year old?!
I won't leave a single drop!!!
FUFU!
The type to use glasses even at home.
Take it.
SHADDUP, YOU 35-YEAR OLD.


GASP
WAIT, AT THIS RATE, I'M JUST A BOTHER, AREN'T I? IS THIS OKAY?
Don't mind it.

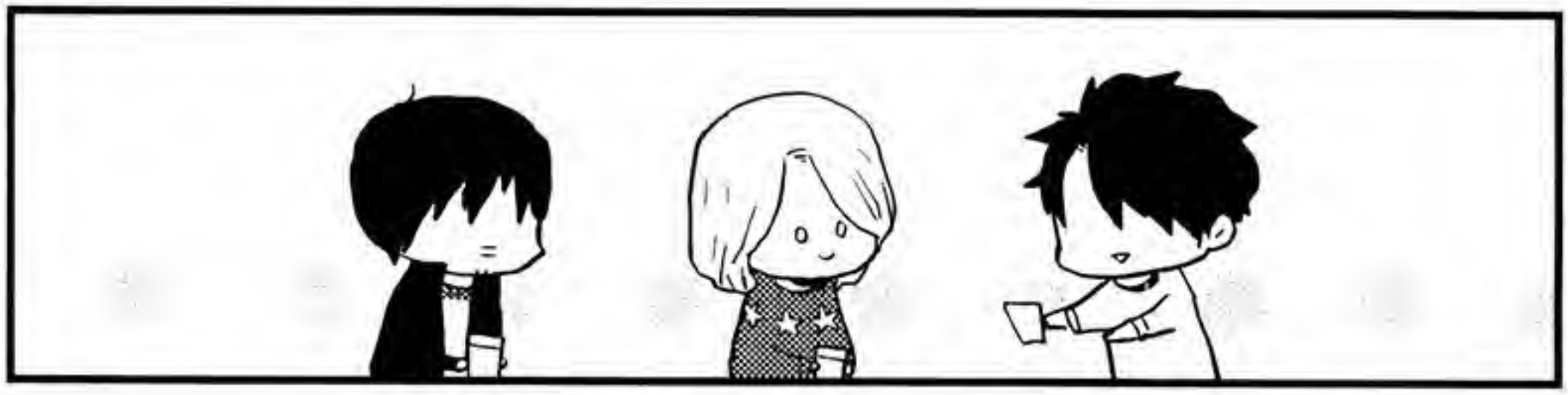
THEY GET ALONG WELL.
WUINE WUINE
pfft

LET'S CELEBRATE!

ALRIGHT.

★Salute~!

CHEERS TO TSUBAKI-KUN'S MOVING IN!

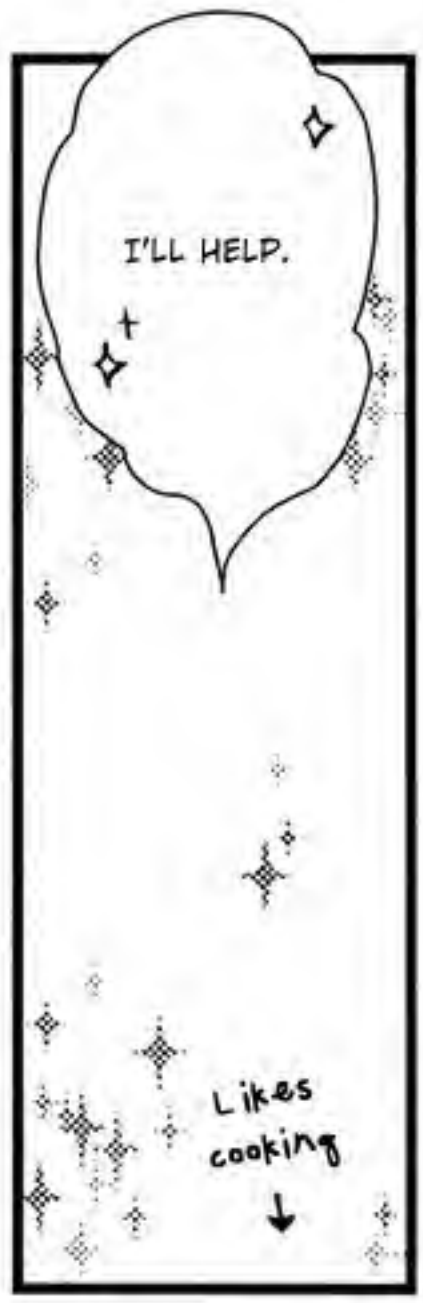


SNORE

YEAH, HE IS.
... HE'S DOWN.

TENSION
Takatsuki-san's out of it as well.
WHAT SHOULD WE TALK ABOUT...?!
TSUBAKI-KUN, WANNA DRINK SOME MORE?

YOU'LL CATCH A COLD...
Heeeeey
...
wiggle wiggle


I'LL HELP.
Likes cooking

IF YOU STILL WANT TO, I CAN COOK UP SOME-THING LIGHT...
UKN UKN
EH?!

Sorry about that.

I HEARD TAKATSUKI IMPOSED ON YOU.
OH, YEAH.

THAT GUY'S A NATURAL WHEN IT COMES TO LEADING PEOPLE BY THE NOSE...

For being alone with him.

I THOUGHT HE'D GET MAD AT ME...

OH, NO.

IT'S NOTHING.

I'm actually surprised you can share a drink with guys like us.

NO, YOU'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG.

I GUESS HE DIDN'T TELL HIM?

I'M SORRY...

THUD

Ah!

HE TOLD ME YOU WERE DATING.

THUNK

HUH?

TOYOHASHI-SAN'S BEEF CURRY

BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T PUT THEM IN THE CURRY...

I ACTUALLY LIKE THEM.

I put them in chutney.

I THOUGHT YOU HATED ONIONS?

I'm bored.

HM? Why?

BUT TAKATSUKI DOESN'T.

peel

HE TALKS BIG, BUT HE'S PICKY HIMSELF.

Akaka

HE CAN ACT LIKE THAT, ONLY 'CUZ I DON'T PUT THE FOOD HE HATES IN MY DISHES.

NOTHING OF THE SORT.
IT WAS TASTY.
YOU DIDN'T LIKE THE CURRY?
CURRY USUALLY HAS ONIONS, AFTER ALL.

IT'S JUST...

WHEN I TRY TO PUSH MYSELF TO MATCH UP WITH THE OTHER PARTY,
I GET QUES-TIONED WHETHER IT'S JUST ME BEING AWKWARD OR WHETHER I TRULY LOVED THEM OR NOT.

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'D BE POPULAR, THOUGH.
NO, I CAN'T MAKE THE GRADE...
I don't know enough people to be consid-ered popular.

I'VE BEEN EATING MEALS ALONE, SO THAT WAS A PRETTY RARE EXPERIENCE FOR ME...
REALLY?
Each household has their own flavor of curry.

AHAHA!
YOU DID YOUR BEST, SO THAT'S A SHAME.
This is my experience with food.
FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN A GIRLFRIEND PUTS SOMETHING I DISLIKE IN THE FOOD, I TRY TO PUT UP WITH IT, BUT THE OPPOSITE HAPPENS AND THEY GET MAD AT ME.

TSUBAKI-KUN,

YOU'RE A MINDFUL GUY,

BUT THERE ARE THINGS YOU CAN'T WRAP YOUR HEAD AROUND, HUH?

THE HELL? THAT'S KINDA EMBARRASS-ING...

...

!?
BLUSH

IT'S JUST, TAKATSUKI-SAN TOLD ME THE SAME THING.

Damn.

TOYOHASHI-SAN CAN BE SHY SOMETIMES.

That's surprising...

It's like...

thump

SO YEAH!!!

THU NK

AHAHA!

AND THE SAME THING HAPPENED WITH TOYOHASHI-SAN!

mutter mutter

AND I WANTED NOTHING MORE THAN FOR TOYOHASHI-SAN TO SEE!!!

TAKATSUKI-SAN LOOKED SO HAPPY WHEN HE TALKED ABOUT TOYOHASHI-SAN!

AND...

TO BE HONEST,

YOU COULD REALLY TELL THEY BOTH TREASURED EACH OTHER.

IT MADE ME KIND OF ENVIOUS.

THUD

SHOCK

IS THAT... WEIRD?

ugh

AH,
THE STREET-LIGHT'S DYING.
flicker
flicker
AM I THAT HOPE-LESS?
WHEN SOMEONE AS RESERVED AS YOU INVITES ME OUT, I JUST HAVE TO GO.
Wahaha!
I'M SORRY...
YOU HAD TO AC-COMPANY ME.
IT'S DARK...
TONIGHT.
'CUZ THE MOON'S NOT OVERHEAD.
WHERE DO YOU LIVE AGAIN?
UP NORTH.
AHH, THE PLACE WITH THE LONG SHOPPING DISTRICT?
THAT'S A GREAT PLACE.
BUT IT'S PACKED WITH PEOPLE, ISN'T IT?
YEAH.

BUT EVEN IF I GO BACK THERE,

I'D BE ALONE.

BLUUUSH

WAIT...

THEN,

WANNA HOLD HANDS?

...

Thought he was helping him stand up

Ahaha

LOOSEN UP!

WE'RE JUST TWO DRUNK MEN.

It's dark anyway.

SQUEEZE

ナンパ?

COME ON.

YOU'RE LONELY, RIGHT?

Let's go again next time.

I gotta say, that restaurant was great.

HE'S A STRANGE GUY.

But his warmth...

...is comforting.

AZUMA-SAN IS...

...A KIND PERSON.

Ahaha

ARE YOU A HAPPY DRUNK?

WHAT'RE YOU LAUGHING FOR?

... stupidly warm.

and both our hands are...

We're drunk,

...since I last held hands with anyone.

I wonder how many years it's been...

end

THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
...
THUNK
"THEN SEE YOU NEXT WEEK."
THUNK
...
THUNK
THUNK
wiggle wiggle
THUNK

I'm drunk...

VANILLA CHOCOLATE CIGARETTE
vol. 4
Bitter Cigar
MON
ER
CO

Aiko was seventeen when
she smoked her first cigarette.

At first, she did it to distract herself from her loneliness,

and presence.

that man's scent

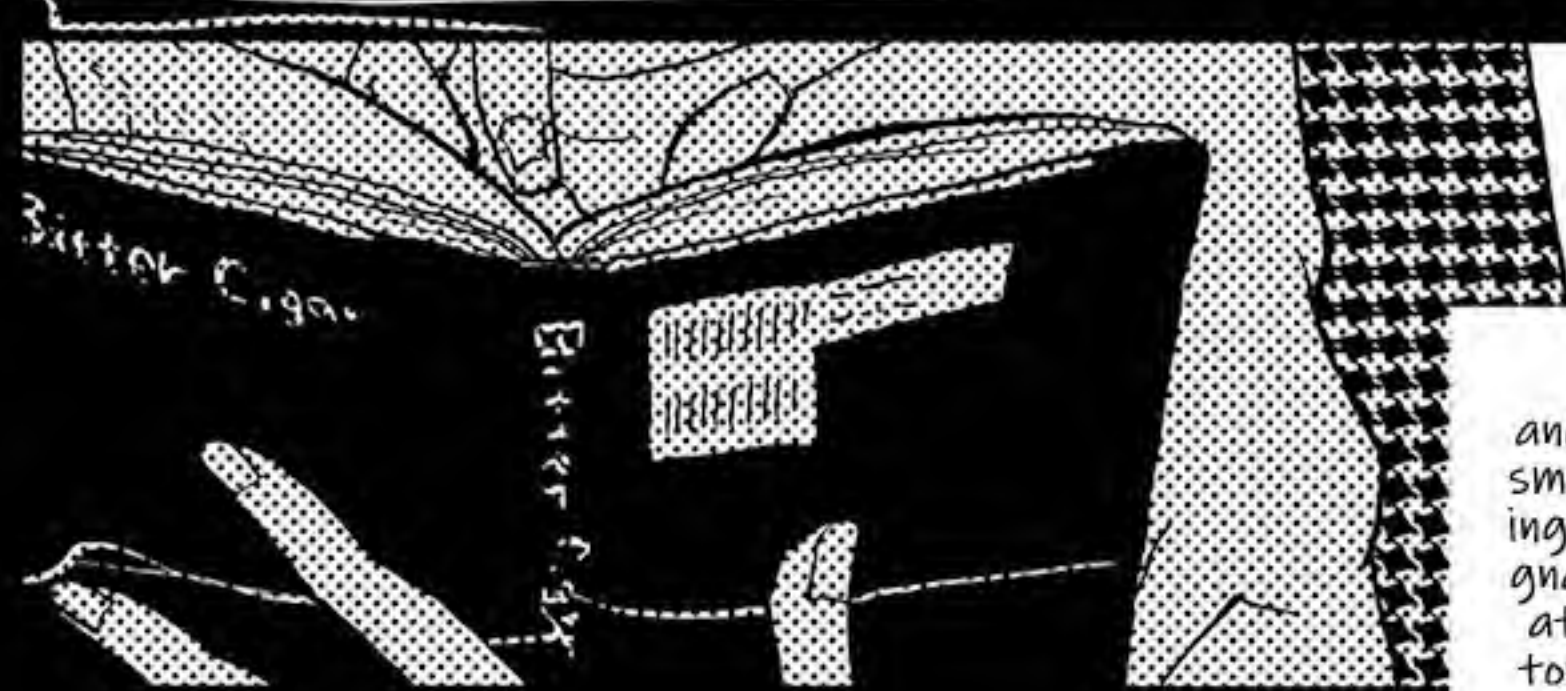
to drive away

That unpleasant taste, worse than what she expected.

The feeble fire she produced on its head.

Her inability to flick the lighter properly.

Even now, the memory of that first spark was fresh in her mind.



The burning sensation in her throat,

and the smoldering heat gnawing at her tongue.

as she felt excessively miserable in her lonesomeness.

"I'm alive," the awfully sharp feeling seemed to urge,

By the time Aiko had killed the loneliness in her,

she was completely addicted to nicotine.

The same brand should have a similar taste, but for some reason, it was incomparable. She puffed on cigarettes countless times to make sure of it.

Before you know it, you're unable to recover anymore.

despite knowing the harm it brings the body.

But after that, you get through stick after stick, increasingly each time,

The first stick you smoke is innocent.

Aiko thought.

Love is like cigarettes...

Aiko learned of passion you cloister within.

CIGAR-ETTES...
AZUMA-SAN SMOKES THEM ALL THE TIME.
The sensation on my hand has been a little strange lately.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I WAS WITH SOMEONE,
SO I'VE FORGOTTEN THE FEEL-ING...
...OF LONELI-NESS.
Ever since then,

All my attention has been on Azuma-san's hand.

THEN WHAT KIND OF GIRL IS YOUR TYPE?

REFRESHING?

PRETTY?

HMMM.

WELL...

Someone from the workplace is a bit...

TSUBAKI-KUN, AREN'T YOU INTERESTED IN DATING ANYONE?

WHAT ABOUT HIKARU-CHAN?

She's cute.

AZUMA-SAN, YOU CAN'T...
OH.
Smoking is prohibited in the company car.

COOKING, HUH...

THIS GUY CAN'T HELP HIMSELF...
Teehee
JUST ONE, OKAY?

WHAT?!
It's after I came of age, okay?
I KEPT AT IT EVEN AFTER I GOT DUMPED.

YOU COULD SAY I GOT THE HABIT FROM A PAST LOVER.
JUST RECENTLY.
Not really sure how long...
HM?
AZUMA-SAN, WHEN DID YOU START SMOKING?

YOU'RE THE POPULAR ONE OUT OF THE TWO OF US.

YOU THINK TOO HIGHLY OF ME. (LOL)

I CAN'T IMAGINE YOU GETTING DUMPED...

WHAAAT...

LIKE WHEN THERE'S SOMETHING YOU JUST HAVE TO SAY,

I WONDER WHY, BUT...

I'D PREFER IF YOU WERE MORE SELFISH.

IT'S OKAY TO BE HONEST AND GET SPOILED, ALRIGHT?

YOU'RE KIND AND OBSERVANT OF YOUR PARTNER'S FEELINGS.

And your memory's good.

BUT BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO CONSCIOUS, YOU CAN'T GET YOURSELF STARTED. (LOL)

OR WHEN YOU WANNA HOLD HANDS.

squeeze

HONK HONK

Uhaha

IT'S GREEN. GO, GO.

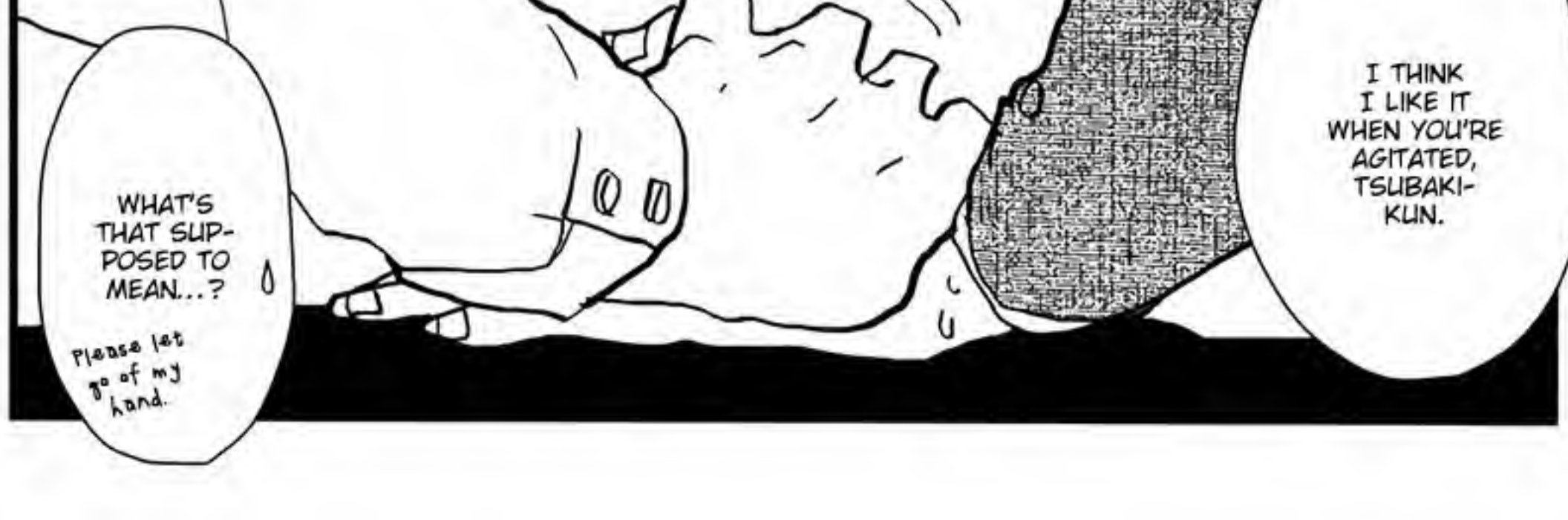
waa! waa!

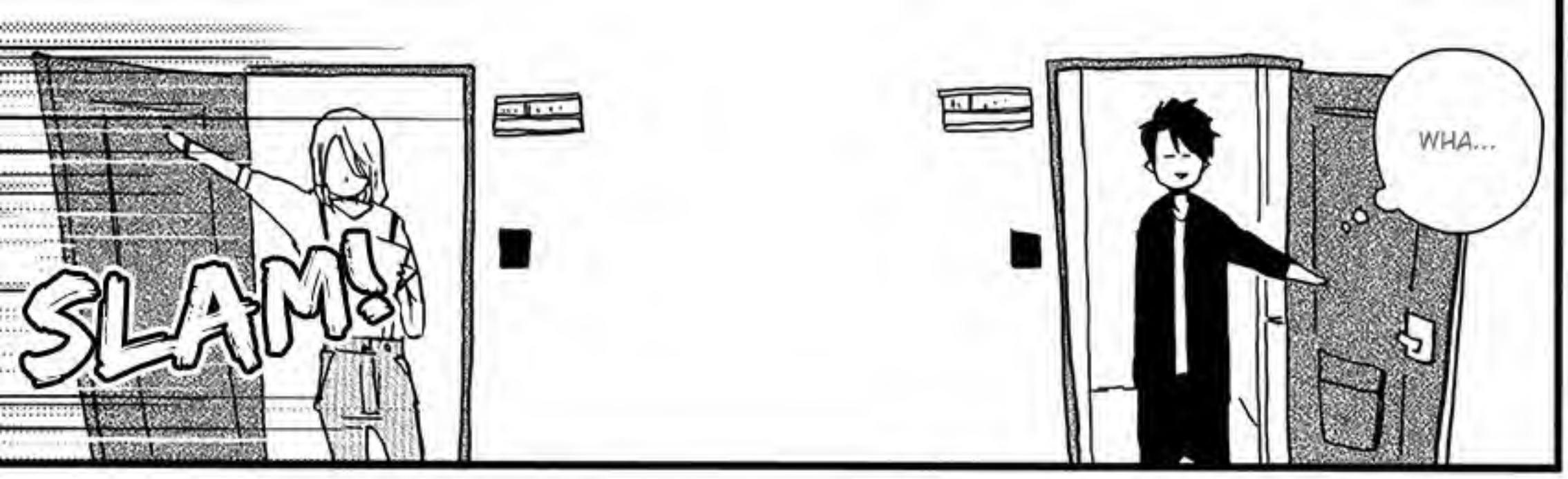
slide

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN...?

Please let go of my hand.

I THINK I LIKE IT WHEN YOU'RE AGITATED, TSUBAKI-KUN.




SLAM!
WHA...

ARE YOU FREE RIGHT NOW?!
TSUBAKI-KUN!!!
PORNO (BIG TITS)

COME ON!
Wha-

WHAT'S THAT IN YOUR HANDS, HEY?!

THAT'S WHAT HE SAAAID!!!

GRRR!

Haha

The face, I'd admit.

Pat Pat

GEH

MINE'S WAY CUTER FROM EVERY ANGLE!!!

said it himself

HE ALREADY HAS THE GOOD STUFF, YET HE LOOKS FOR MORE!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT TOYO-HASHI!

megane

YA RECKON?!

SHINE

AH.

IT SUITS YOU.

THAT LOOKS GOOD.

YOU LOOK CUTE.

I'M SURE TOYOHASHI-SAN WOULD LIKE IT...

prescription glasses, too.

Maybe I should buy—

BUT HE DOES LOOK CUTE.

THAT DIALECT IS FOUL PLAY.

IT'S STRANGE I THINK A GUY IS CUTE,

THEN I'M CHOOSING THIS!!!

WHOA, SERIOUSLY?!

Thank you!

OH YEAH, I TRIED READING ONE OF YOUR BOOKS.

You move large sums of money in a compa-ny.

FOR ME, A COMPANY EM-PLOYEE LIKE YOU IS MORE AMAZING.

ANYONE COULD DO THAT.

Ehh.

IT'S HARDLY ANYTHING.

YOU'RE AMAZING FOR WRITING SOMETHING THAT GOOD.

IT'S A STRANGE FEELING TO BE LIVING NEXT TO YOU AND ACCOM-PANYING YOU TO SHOP.

BUT I CAN'T.

EXCUSE ME.

...

WHERE WE JUST DO WHAT WE NORMALLY CAN DO.

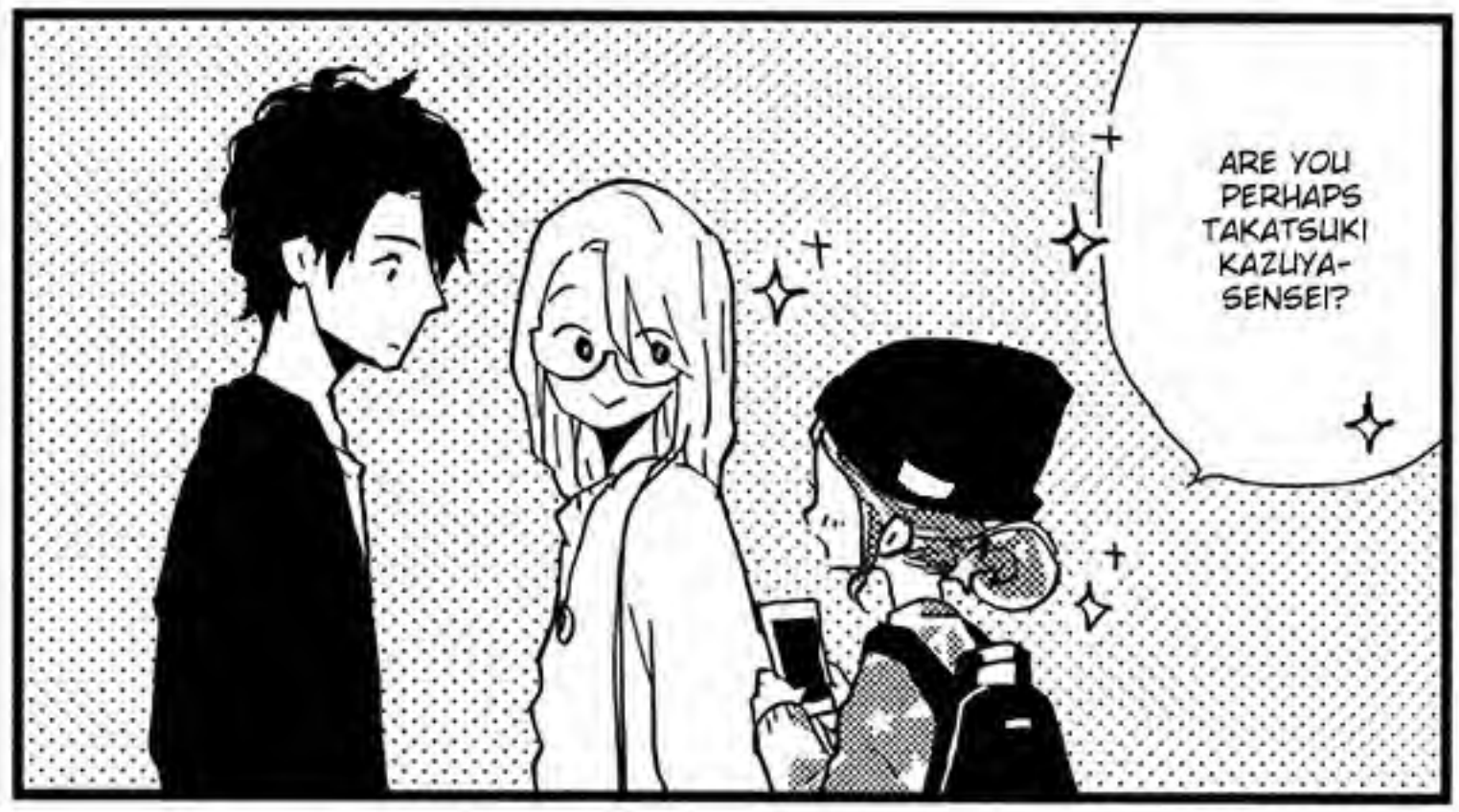
I GUESS THIS IS THE SORT OF THING,

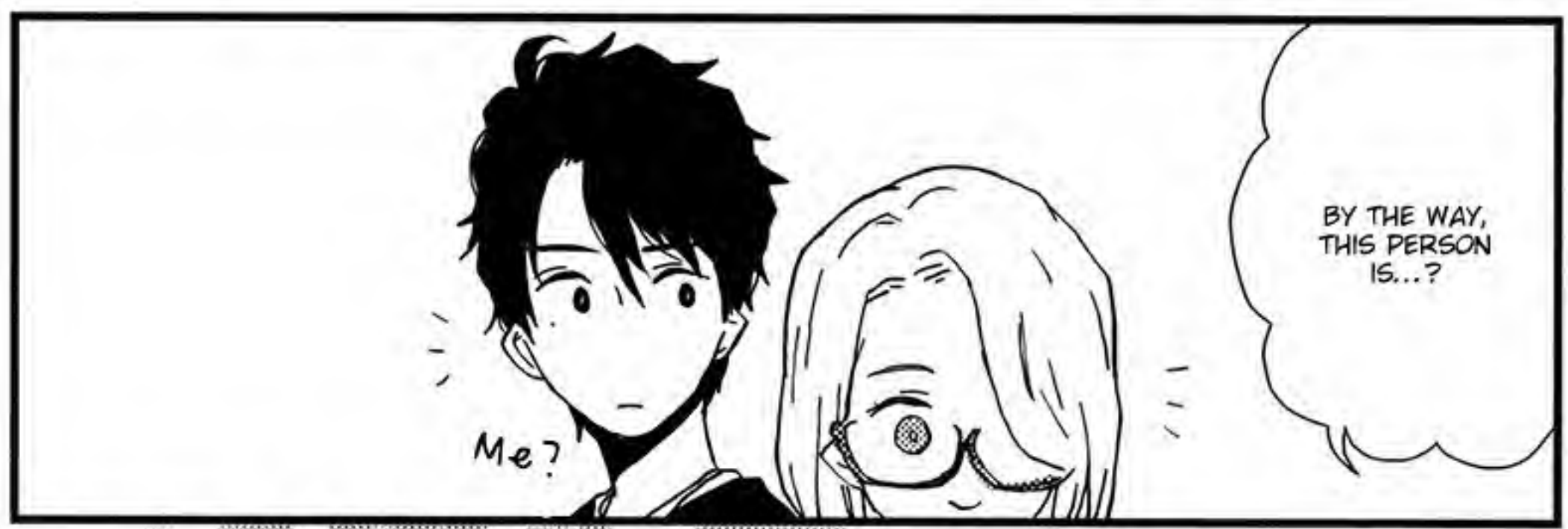
I'm a fan! I've read all of your works!

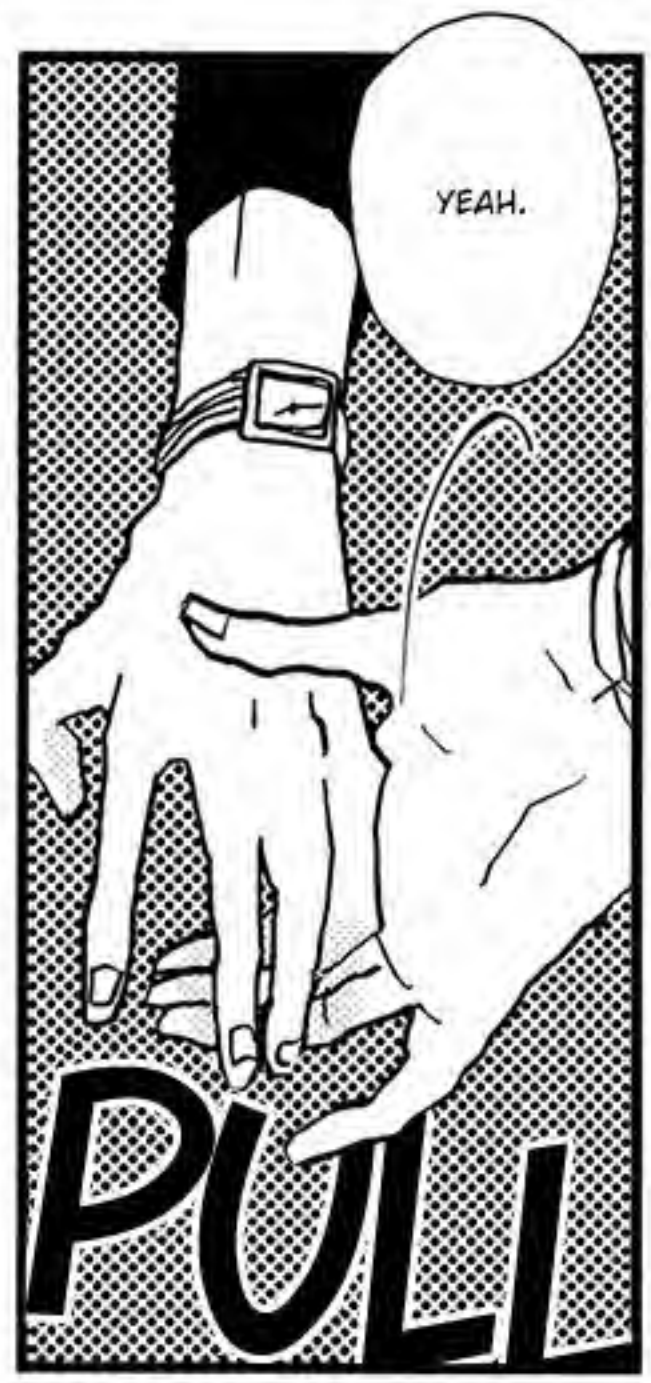
Waaa! Thank you!

YUP, HE'S DEFINITELY AMAZING...

SNAP







WERE YOU REALLY FREE?

AH, YES.

ANYWAY, I'M SORRY FOR DRAGGING YOU ALONG ALL OF A SUDDEN.

PLEASE STOP WITH THAT KIND OF JOKE.

IT'S ALL TOYOHASHI'S FAULT. HAR-RUMPH.

SLAM

MIND EXPLAINING THIS "DATE WITH HIS BOYFRIEND"?

CANDY
@bitter_candy
I saw Takatsuki-sensei!
He was on a shopping date
with his handsome boyfriend.
He was so pretty!

LOOK, LOOK. I'VE GOT GLAS...

TAKATSUKI.

WAIT, WHAT?! THAT'S UNFAIR!!! IT'D BE MY LOSS IF I GET MAD!

It's hard to say "yes."

HAHAHA

WHAT THE HELL, SO THE HANDSOME GUY'S TSUBAKI-KUN.

MY BAD, MY BAD.

NO, THAT'S NOT...

OH, WAIT...

Welcome back.

TOPPLE

GEH

WA

ON THE OTHER HAND,

PUSH

YOU ASKED ME AFTER I WORKED ALL NIGHT! BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS!

I CAN'T HEAR YOUUU!

EHHH

IN THE FIRST PLACE, IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR NOT GOING SHOPPING WITH ME!!!

TAP TAP

SO I LIKE HIM A WHOOOLE LOT COMPARED TO YOU.

STIFF

Hey, hey.

TOTALLY UNLIKE SOMEONE I KNOW.

TSUBAKI-KUN INSTANTLY AGREED AFTER I ASKED HIM OUT OF THE BLUE.

HE'S NICE TOO.

HUGGG

YOU TOOK THE WORDS OUTTA MY MOUTH.

I LIKE HIM A WHOOOLE LOT COM-PARED TO YOU.

WAAA!!!

shock

OH, YEAH?

THANKS.

I HATE YOU!

STUPID! STUPID TOYO-HASHI!

WAAA!

SNATCH

yap yap yap

WAAA!!! NOOO!!!

I WON'T LET YOU TOUCH THE CATS ANYMORE.

WHY DON'T THE THREE OF US GO ENJOY A MEAL...?!

IDIOT, IDIOT!

YOU'RE AN IDIO-OOT!

In the end, I'm the one cooking.

PLEA...

PLEASE CUT IT OUT!!!

THE TRUTH IS,

I WANTED YOU TO PICK MY GLASSES FOR ME, TOYOHASHI.

What the hell?

EH?

EH?!

EH?

THAT'S RARE.

I SEE. EVEN YOU GET MAD AT TIMES...

TSUBAKI-KUN GOT MAD...

THE TSUBAKI WHO SITS IN SEIZA IN OTHER PEOPLE'S PLACES...

I'M GONNA USE THEM EVERYDAY, AFTER ALL.

SO I WANTED TO USE WHAT YOU THOUGHT WAS NICE.

TSUBAKI-KUN TOLD ME IT'S CUTE,

BUT TOYOHASHI,

YOU DIDN'T SAY IT'S CUTE.

IF ANYTHING, YOU DIDN'T NOTICE THEM AT ALL.

Say it again.
Yeah, no.
meow
THAT'S A GIVEN. DO I HAVE TO SAY IT EVERY SINGLE TIME?
The one inconvenienced the most
That's a relief.
WHUUUT?
In the end,
quarrels or idle complaints...
...are about matching one another.

Azuma
Want to go drinking?
I already ate.

Azuma
I already ate. But if you're fine with something light, wanna drink at my house?

YOU KNOW WHAT I LIKE.

NYAN DESUKA

WHOA, THIS LOOKS GOOD.

SORRY FOR THE SHORT NOTICE.

OH, WELL...

UHHH

It's unusual for you to contact me at this hour.

DID ANY-THING HAPPEN?

TURN

THERE'S...

...A MOVIE I WANTED TO WATCH,

SO I WENT AND BORROWED IT.

Let's watch it!

HM.

That was obviously a lie...

A MOVIE...

...FROM SEVEN YEARS AGO, IS IT?

flick

puff

I wonder what kind of person that past lover he mentioned.

It seems like the sofa's made for two people,

and the glasses are probably a pair.

So I'm guessing he lived with his girlfriend.

REALLY?

NOTHING, REALLY.

OH.

NO.

SOMETHING DID HAPPEN.

EARTH TO TSUBAKI.

GA SP

WOULD IT...

clink

...BE A BOTHER IF I...

...CAME HERE FOR NO REASON?

WOW

What's with that?

KEEP THAT EXCLUSIVELY FOR ME.

WHOA, THAT'S ADORABLE.

HAHA!

Ahh, damn.

All because ...

we held hands once,

move move move move move

move

I go...

...a little astray...

move

...from the border.

YES?

No way, no way.

WERE YOU LONELY?

AHAHA!

I'M SORRY.

I'VE BEEN ACTING WEIRD RECENTLY.

I'M...

YOU'RE A VERY CAPABLE PERSON,

SO I FIND MYSELF DEPENDING ON YOU CONSTANT-LY.

I DON'T THINK SO.

rub

YOU'VE BEEN SINGING MY PRAISES LIKE THAT,

BUT THERE'S A MOUNTAIN OF THINGS YOU CAN DO AND I CAN'T.

BUT...

IT'S TRUE, I'M TELLING YOU.

Huh?

FOR EXAMPLE, YOU CAN COOK,

Somehow,

our hands are...

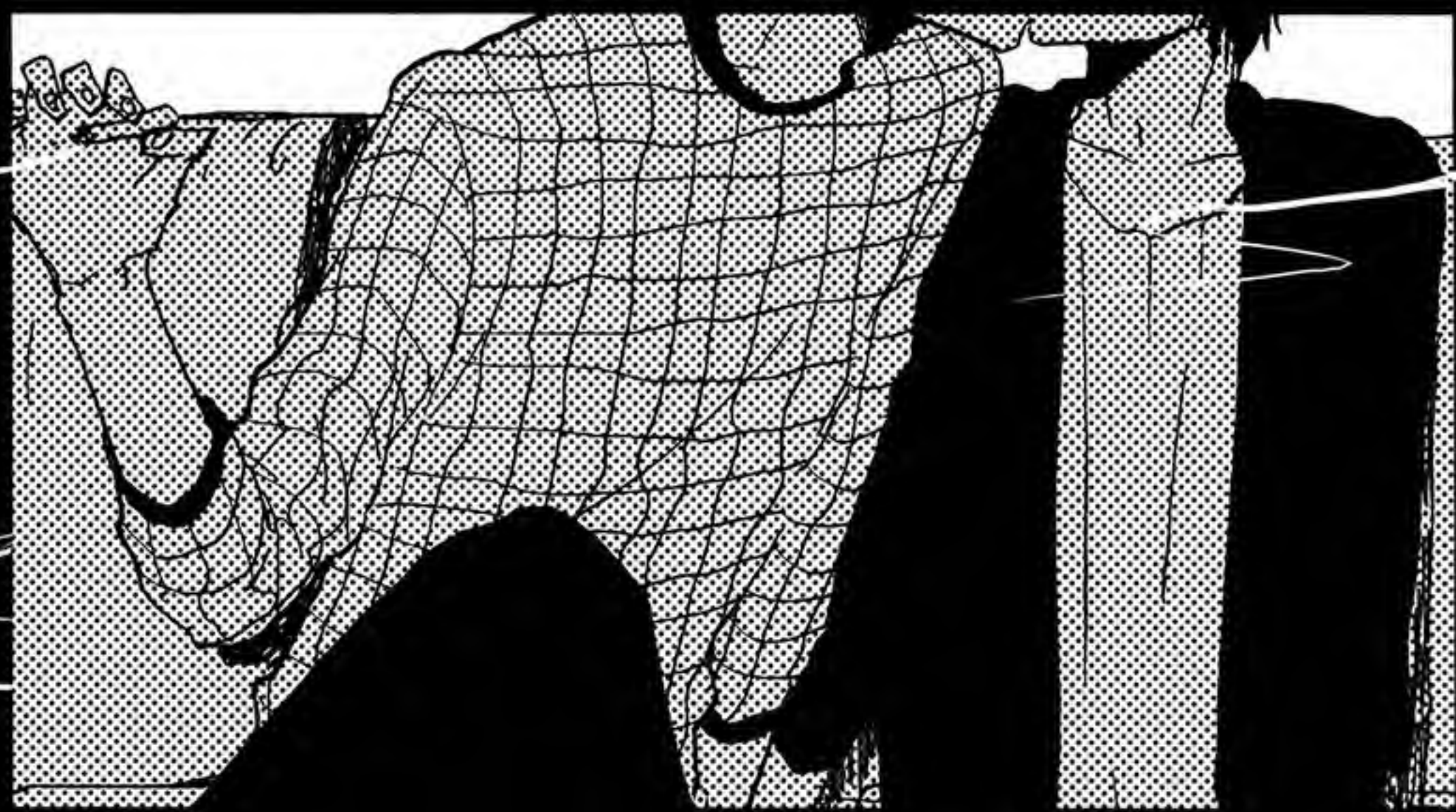
squeeze

The first stick you smoke is innocent.

Before you know it, you're unable to recover anymore.

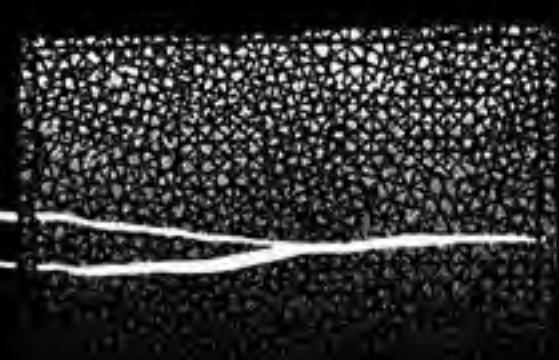
despite knowing the harm it brings the body.

But after that, you get through stick after stick, increasingly each time,



Love is like cigarettes...

Aiko thought.



end

VANILLA CHOCOLATE CIGARETTE

vol. 5

PUSH

...fall in love
with women.

I'M...

I'M
GOING
HOME.

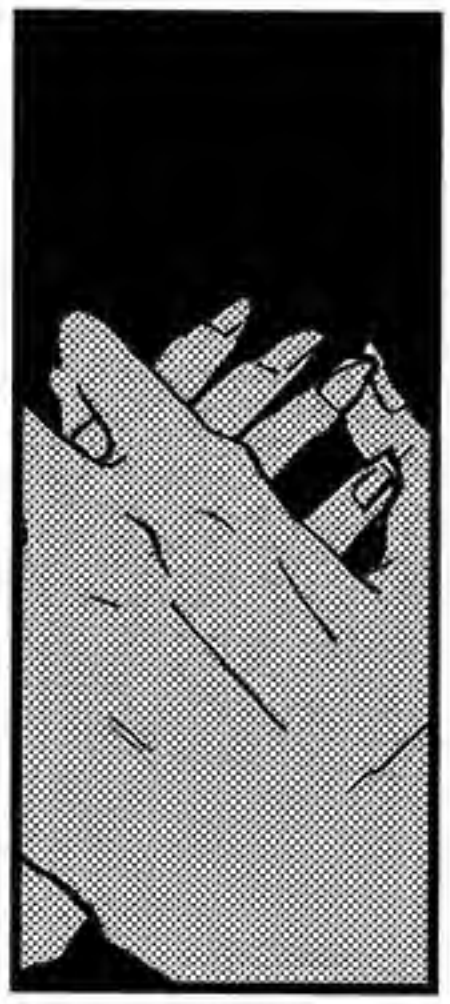
What?!

Wait...

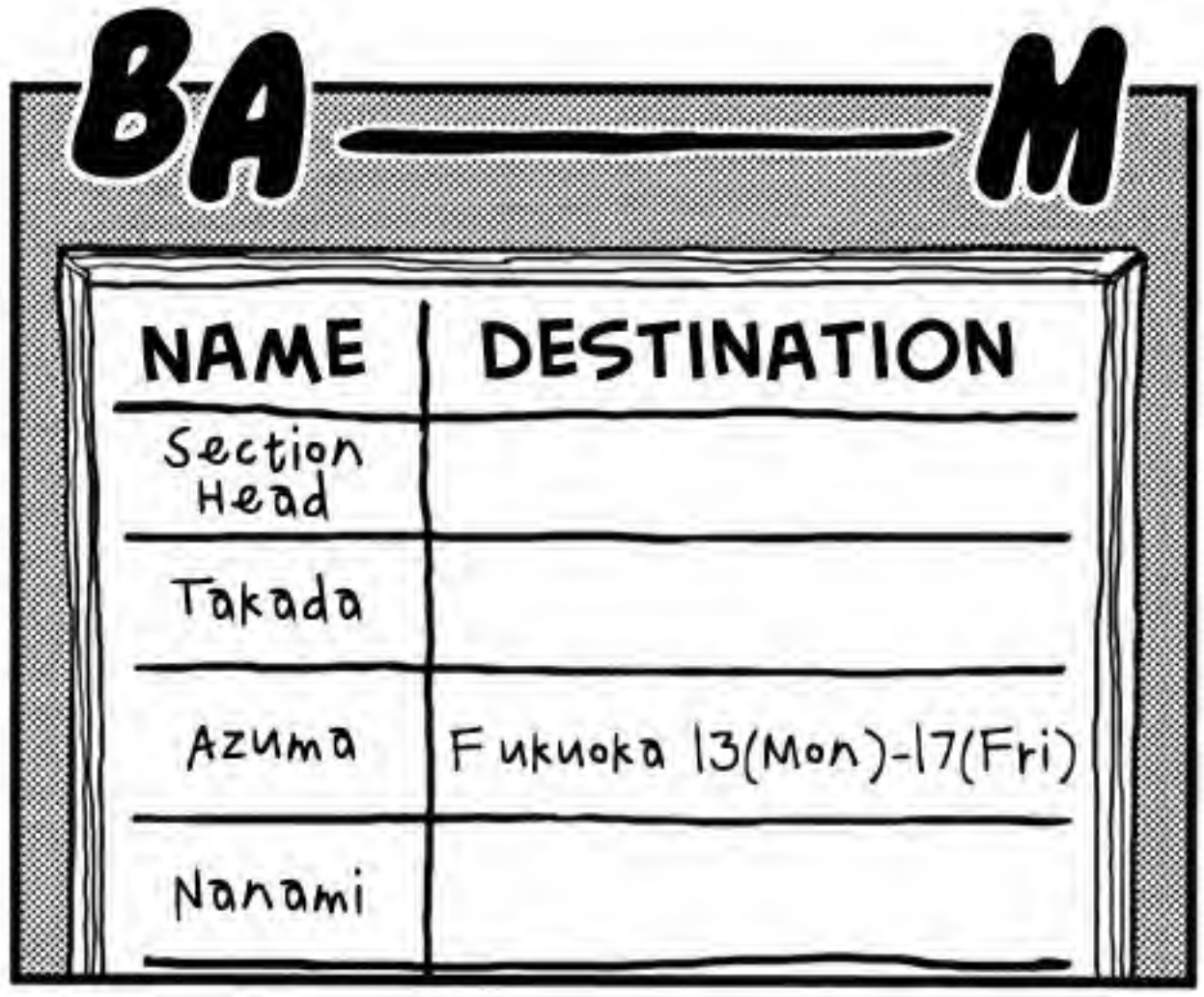
What just happened to me?!

And then...

Put his face close to mine...

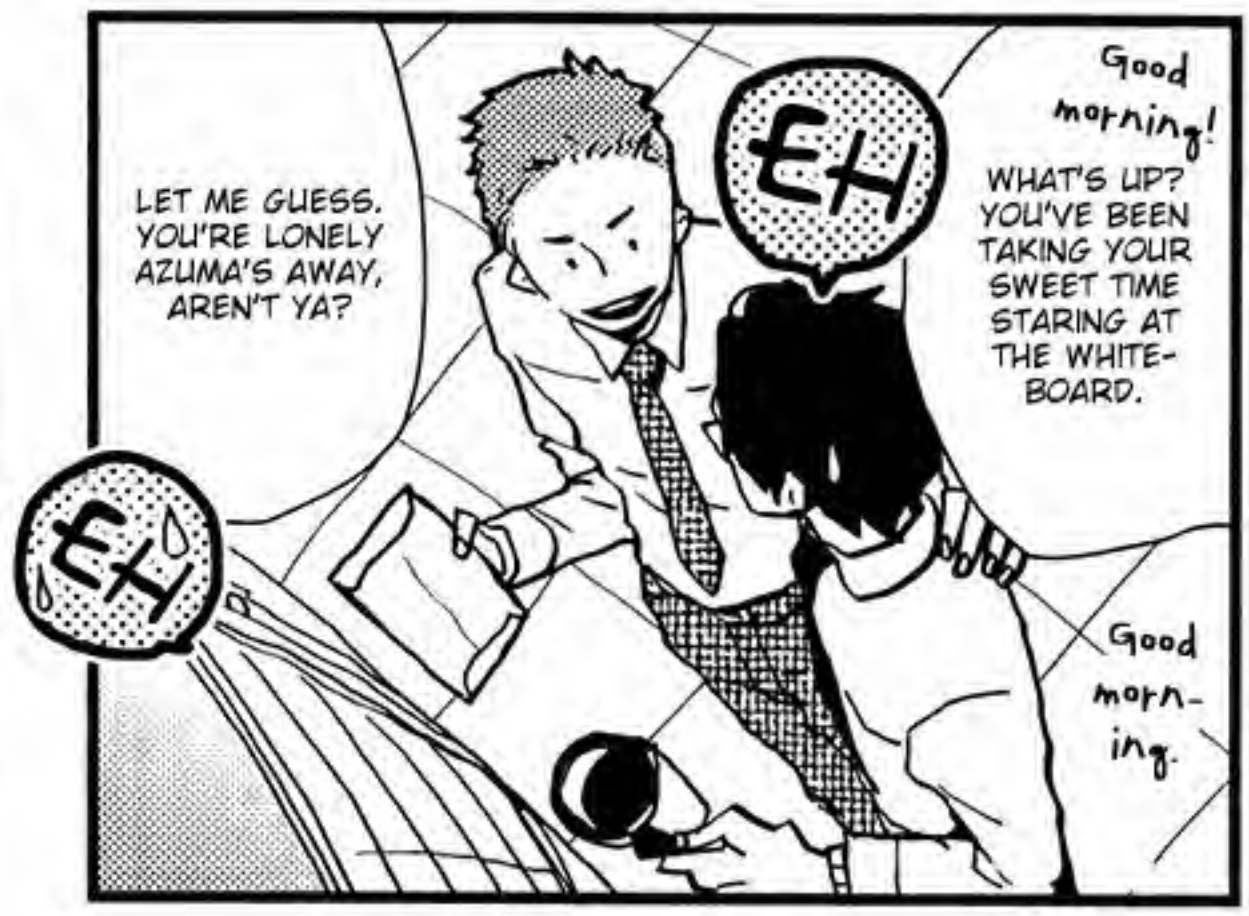


Azuma-san took my hand...



NAME	DESTINATION
Section Head	
Takada	
Azuma	Fukuoka 13(Mon)-17(Fri)
Nanami	

I'M-
HE'S BEEN DOTING ON YOU, AFTER ALL.
Haha


LET ME GUESS. YOU'RE LONELY AZUMA'S AWAY, AREN'T YA?
EH
EH
Good morning!
WHAT'S UP? YOU'VE BEEN TAKING YOUR SWEET TIME STARING AT THE WHITE-BOARD.
Good morn-ing.

THAT'S TOO BAD.
GEE.
GAH!
I'M NOT LONELY!!!

Good morning.

BUT THE BOSS CONTACT-ED ME EARLY THIS MORNING, INSTRUCTING ME TO SECURE THE MATERIAL.
I'll leave after the morning assembly.
I HAD PLANNED TO GO STRAIGHT FROM HOME,
YEAH,
AZUMA-SAN.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ON A BUSI-NESS TRIP...

THEY'RE COLLECTING DRINKING MONEY.

I have change.

TSUBAKI-KUN,

A surprise attack.

Make some time for the drinking party next week, okay?

Gotcha! It's a surprise this time, right.

WELL, THAT WAS ANTICLIMACTIC...

Maybe yesterday was a joke.

It's not an uncommon thing to do as a playful gesture...

He looked it up on Yahoo! Answers

Or was it a dream?

IT'S...

...BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR HIM!

DUZ

I'm off!

After that, I feel as if...

...the taste of tobacco lingers inside my mouth.

"I ALSO HAVE GAY FRIENDS."

AND THEY'RE JUST...

...NORMAL,

WAS IT?

In the last part of Taka-tsuki-san's book,

the protagonist's new lover went for wool and came back shorn.

He started smoking cigarettes, too.

IF IT TURNS OUT THAT AZUMA-SAN IS A HOMO-SEXUAL,

I WON-DER WHAT COURSE OF ACTION...

...WOULD I TAKE?

...

BA PORN M

DING DONG

serious

I GUESS I SHOULDN'T THROW IT AWAY. I'LL RETURN IT.

BUT I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO MAKE OF THIS.

TAKATSUKI-SAN LEFT THIS HERE IN THE CHAOS OF THE MOMENT,

HE'S BE-COME MORE EX-PRES-SIVE...

I DIDN'T THINK TAKATSUKI WOULD BE SO PISSED. (LOL)

PLEASE DON'T INVOLVE ME IN THAT KIND OF THING...

Hahaha

IT WAS GIFTED TO ME AS A PRANK AT OUR YEAR-END PARTY.

I LEFT IT ALONE, BUT TAKATSUKI FOUND IT AND WENT OFF, ALL ON HIS OWN.

You can keep it, if you like.

EH...

(I don't need it either.)

EH?

I DON'T NEED IT.

WAS THERE ANYTHING THAT MADE YOU LIKE THE SAME SEX?

THEN LET ME ASK YOU. WAS THERE ANYTHING THAT MADE YOU LIKE WOMEN?

Hm, let's see...

WAS...

THANKS TO THAT, I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION YOU SWING BOTH WAYS...

cuz you have some-thing like this.

WELL, YEAH. AT LEAST IN THE PAST.

BUT AT PRESENT, I'M FULL TERM.

HOW ABOUT THIS?

WHAT MADE YOU LIKE TAKATSUKI-SAN?

...

UH

UM?

?

OH, HE'S EMBAR-RASSED...?

WELL, THE FACT HE LIVES NEXT TO ME, IS A HUGE FACTOR.

BACK WHEN WE BOTH FELT IT WAS GOING GOOD BETWEEN US, ONE TIME, WE MET EACH OTHER IN THE CORRIDOR AFTER HE'D WORKED ALL NIGHT, AND I'D WORKED THE NIGHT SHIFT.

thud

?

swish

?

SLAM

Takatsuki

SO... I HAD ENOUGH AND WENT TO HIM.

SLAM

TAKA-TSUKI!!!

WHAT ON EARTH?

HE AVOIDED ME FOR A WHOLE WEEK... ...BECAUSE HE WAS HORRIFIED I SAW HIM WITH A SLIGHT BEARD (ALLEGEDLY).

↑ He didn't see.

GRAB

DON'T GIVE ME THE COLD SHOULDER FOR SUCH A STUPID REASON!!!

WHEN YOU CAN'T EVEN EAT YOUR MEALS PROPERLY BEFORE YOUR DEADLINE!!!

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUSLY IGNORING ME!

... IT'S NOT STUPID.

I WANT TO LOOK MY CUTEST...

...IN FRONT OF THE PERSON I LIKE!

BUT STILL,

I SOMEWHAT UNDERSTAND...

He was charmed when they went shopping together.

That came from Takatsuki at that age

THAT FREAKING HIT A SPOT WHEN HE SAID THAT.

Maybe it's the trauma, but there's a reason I don't stay there often...

GASP

THUMP

EVEN IF TAKATSUKI WERE A WOMAN,

I STILL WOULD'VE DATED HIM.

Right?

BLUSH

ALRIGHT, YOU CAN STOP IT NOW!

MY HEART MADE A HUGE THUMP!!!

IT WAS VERY ROMANTIC!

Impressive, Toyohashi-san!

NOT AT ALL!!!

... I FEEL LIKE I JUST SAID SOMETHING INCREDIBLY EMBARRASSING.

Hm?

DVD?

AH!

?

This thing is completely to blame.

purr purr

WHY ARE WE EVEN TALKING ABOUT THIS?

OH, THE DVD...

That kind of relationship sounds lovely.

purr

SO I DIDN'T REALIZE THE DVD WAS LEFT THERE.

SORRY ABOUT THIS.

I WAS ON A BUSI-NESS TRIP THIS WEEK,

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO WARY OF ME.

AHAHA!

NONONO, I'M FINE!

WANNA HAVE COFFEE?

RELEASE

...

JUST KIDDING!

THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP

I'M SORRY.

FOR BOTHER-ING YOU.

Stupid.

I'm so stupid.

This isn't anything new when it comes to him.

He's always making fun of me.

pant

pant

pant

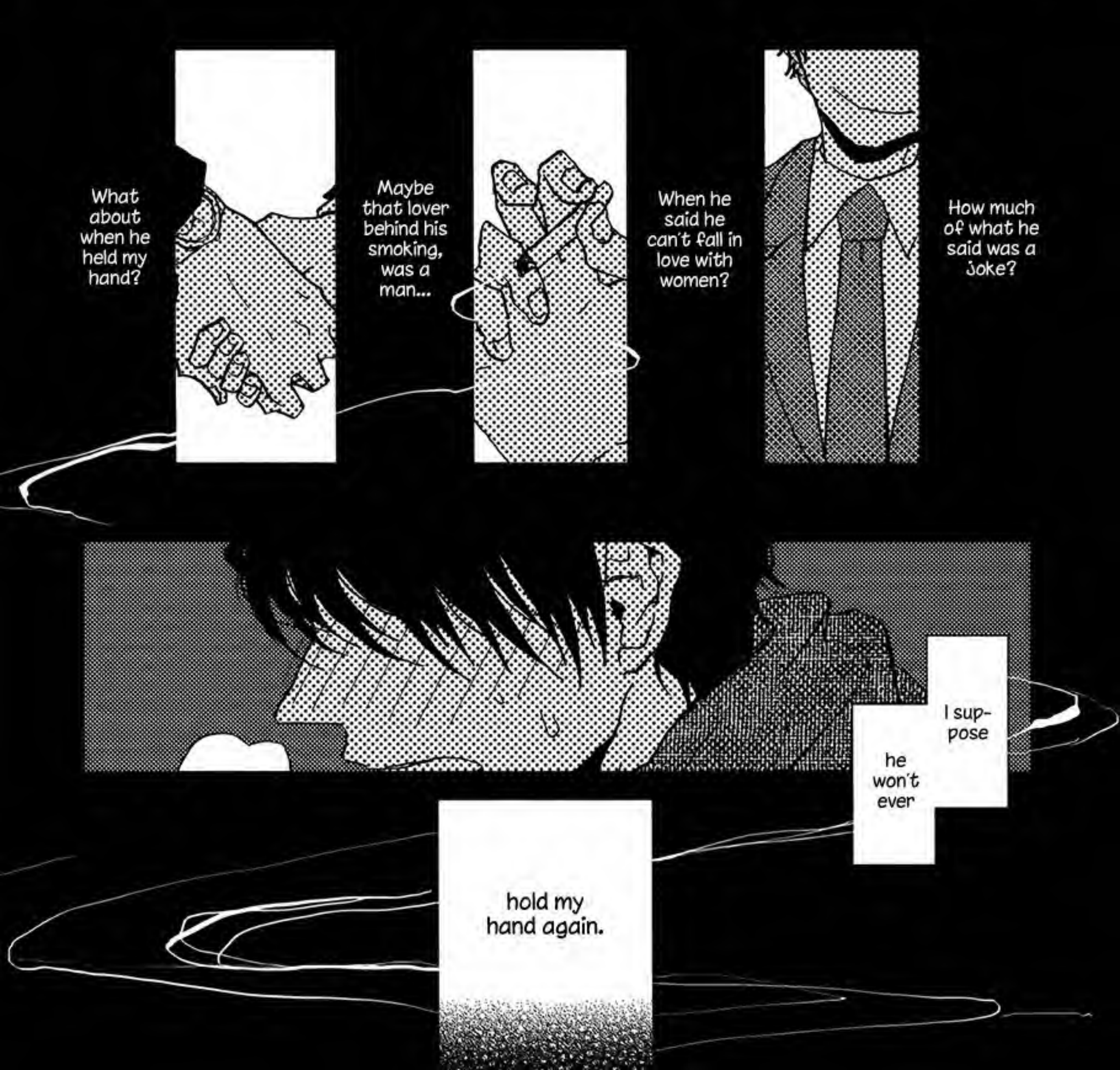
pant

But what's really surprising...

...is how shocked I am over it.

EARLIER, I HAD SOME EXPECTATIONS OF WHAT HE'D SAY.

BUT AT THAT POINT, I COULDN'T HAVE FORESEEN THE ANSWER.



I'm lone-ly.
It's lone-ly.
Ahh.
IT TASTES BITTER...
...IN-SIDE MY MOUTH.
You're unfair, Azuma-san.

CHATTER
CHA-T-T-E-R
CHATTER
CHATTER

HOWEVER, HIS COMMUNICATION SKILLS ARE CLOSE TO ZERO, SO HE'S LEFT OUT AT THE END OF THE DRINKING PARTY.
BUT ANYWAY, THIS IS A GOOD DISTRACTION.
THE DRINKING PARTY THIS MONDAY TOTALLY SLIPPED MY MIND.
buzz
buzz

But wait, Azuma-san's not here...
I think.
I'm kinda glad I was transferred here.
Everyone's friendly.

thuuu
mp
You're as closed off as ever.
THUD
TSUBAKI-KUN, YOU'RE TOTALLY COOPED UP OVER THERE.

WHY AM I EVEN LOOKING FOR HIM?
OH?

NOT THAT.

SORRY ABOUT LAST NIGHT.

OH, I WAS ABLE TO RETURN THE DVD ON TIME...

THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP

MAINTAIN COMPO-SURE... MAINTAIN COMPO-SURE...

SERIOUS-LY...?

Miss, can I have some beer?

FOR SAYING "I FELT LIKE IT."

thump

WHY SAY SORRY?

SORRY.

... KINDA.

YOU NOTICED I'M GAY, RIGHT?

Beer

SO WHEN YOU BROUGHT UP THE TOPIC ABOUT YOUR GAY NEIGHBORS,

I THOUGHT THAT WAS YOU TRYING TO TEST THE WATERS.

IT'S NOT DIFFICULT TO MAKE OUT OTHER GAY MEN.

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, BUT YOU RAN AWAY WHEN I KISSED YOU, SO THAT'S HOW I KNEW YOU WERE STRAIGHT. (LOL)

... I'M SORRY...

You wouldn't answer my calls either

AND THEN YOU, YOURSELF, WANTED TO HOLD MY HAND.

YOU WENT TO MY PLACE SAYING THERE WAS A MOVIE YOU WANTED TO WATCH, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS OBVIOUSLY A LIE,

YOU DIDN'T PULL AWAY WHEN I HELD YOUR HAND,

YOU STARTED ASKING ME OUT TO DRINK,

Uuugh

HA HA HA

...ASK YOU ONE THING?
CAN I...
I'M SORRY. IT MUST HAVE GROSSED YOU OUT.
WHAT KIND OF PERSON WERE THEY?
THAT LOVER YOU SAID WAS THE REASON FOR YOUR SMOKING,
... A KIND PERSON.

... WHY?

MAYBE...
...I SHOULD...
...START SMOKING, TOO.

You have a formidable lack of interest in others, after all.
WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT.
THIS IS THE SECOND TIME YOU ASKED ME.

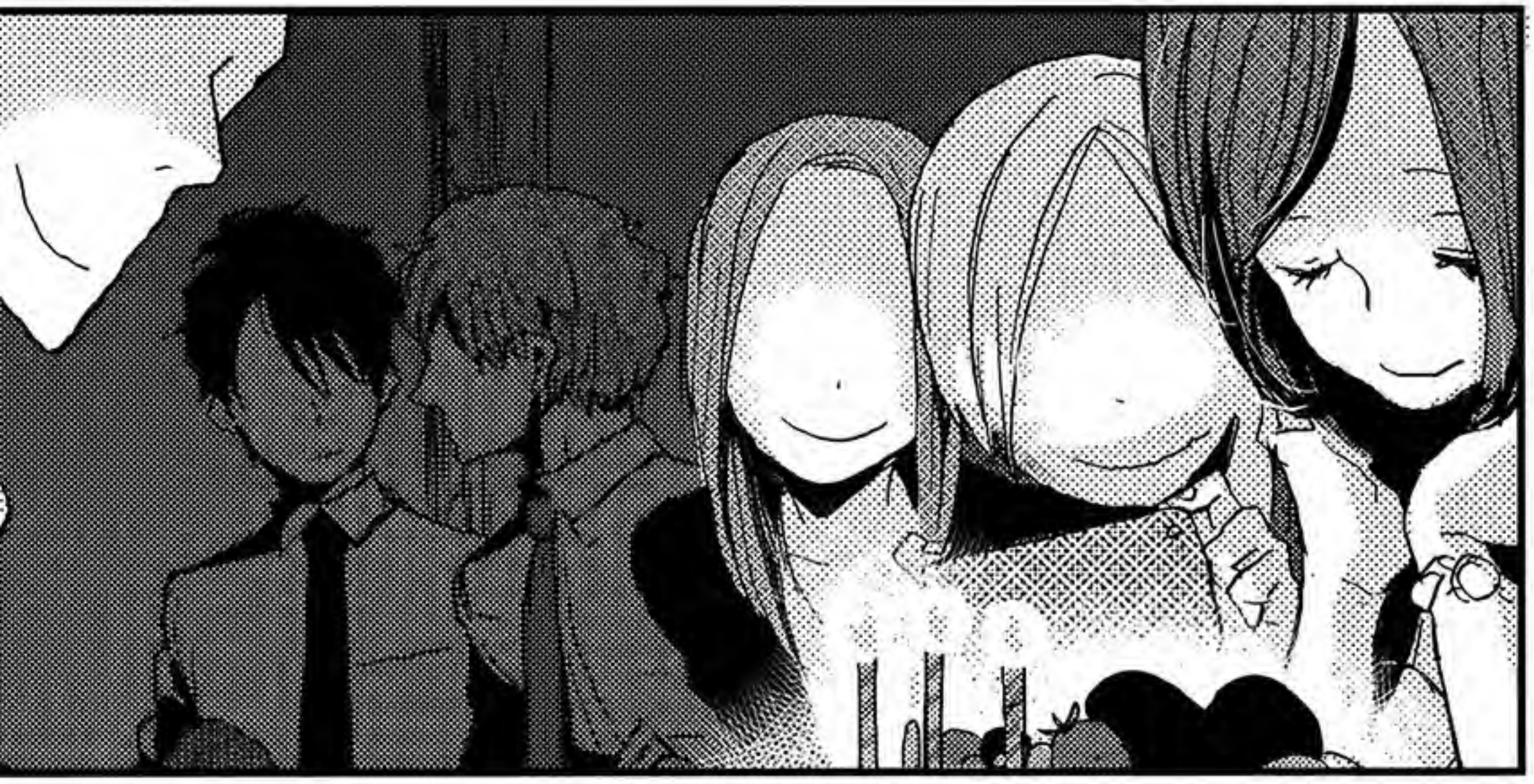
SAME AS YOU.

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
DOES...
...THAT MEAN?
slide
THUMP
Happy birth-day!
FOR ME?!
HUH?!
Happy birth-day...
Happy birth-day to you!
clap clap
♪ ジングルベル ジングルベル ♪
HUH?! WHAT?!
A BLACK-OUT?!
shock

Hah! It's so happy!

Come on! Blow out the candle!

Ahaha!



HEY, TSUBAKI-SA...!
Then, how about me...?
NOPE!
I DON'T HAVE A BOY-FRIEND!!!
WE FIGURED YOU'D BE CELEBRATING WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND ON THE ACTUAL DATE.

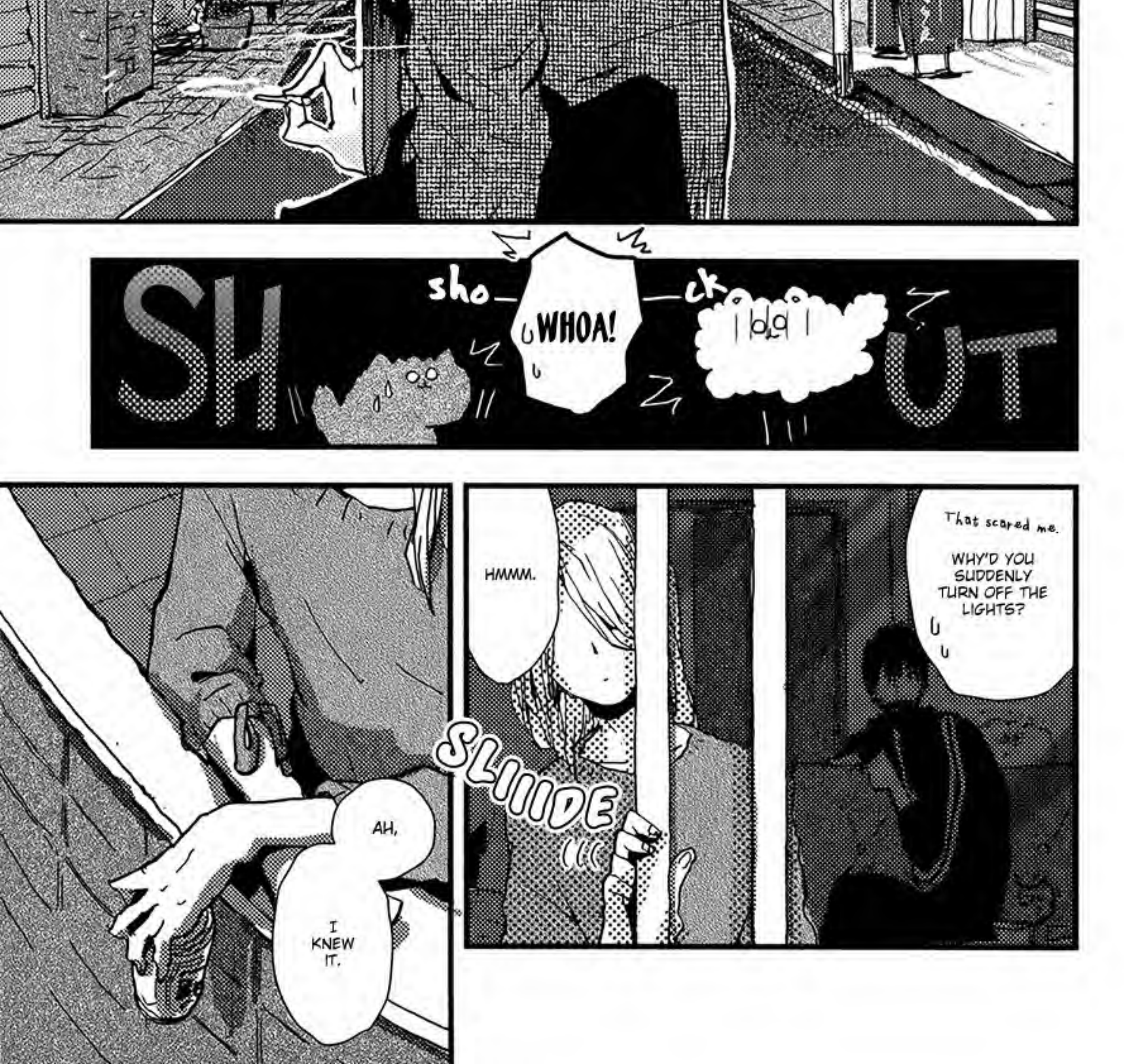
MY BIRTHDAY IS NEXT WEEK, ALRIGHT?!
Happy

EMPTY
... HUH?
He's not here.

YEAH, DON'T WORRY.
WE ALREADY PAID IN ADVANCE.
That's besides the point...
WE JUST LEFT.
WAS THAT OKAY?

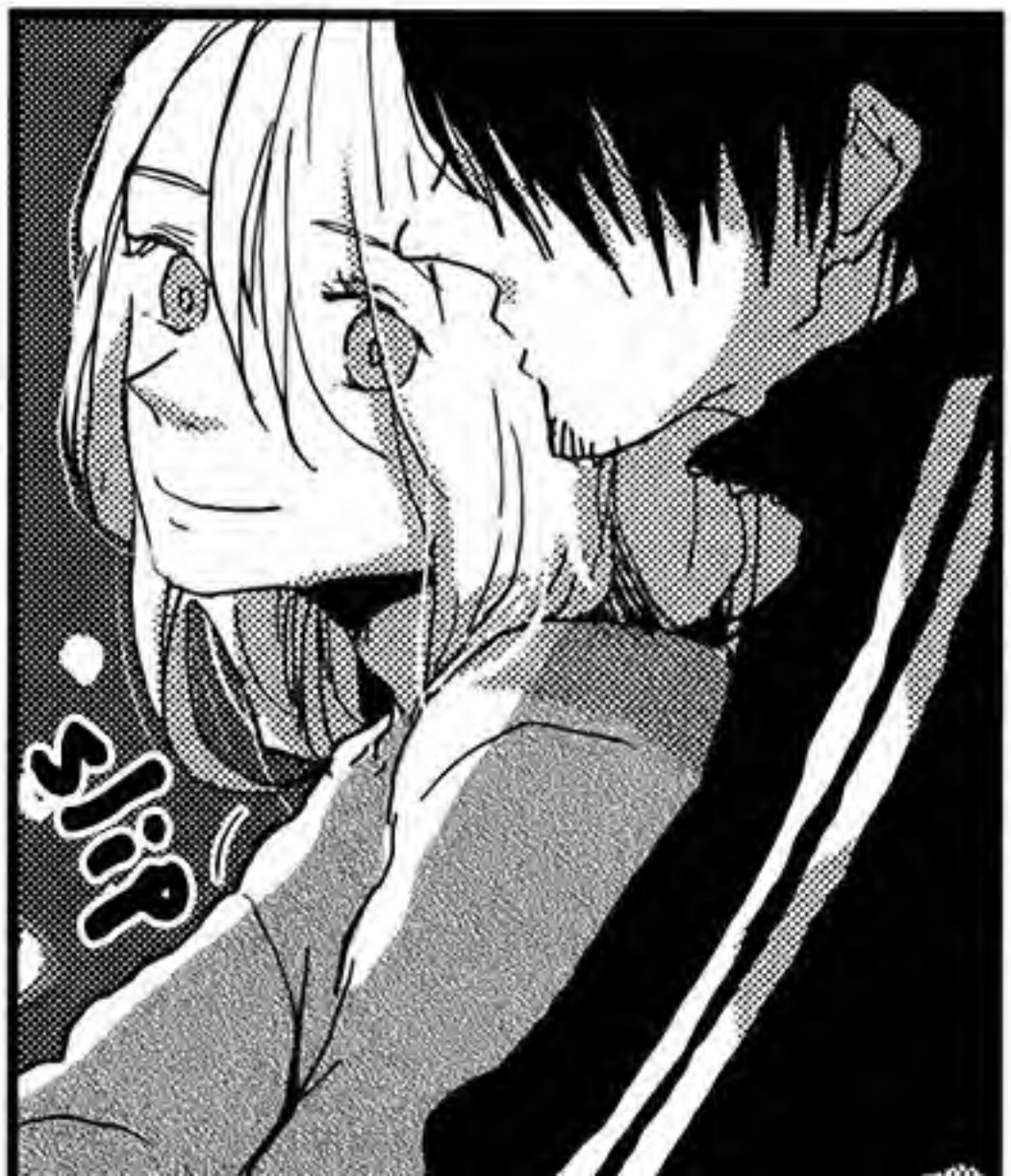
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SMOKE CIGAR-ETTES.



TOYO-HASHI.

IT'S A FULL MOON TONIGHT.



WE MISSED OUT ON THE CAKE.

WHAT?

WAS IT?

IT WAS YOUR IDEA TO SLIP OUT.

Ahaha

I JUST THOUGHT...

THE MOON IS PRETTY.

YOU WANT TO EAT CAKE AT THIS HOUR?

THERE'S A CAKE SHOP IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD, IT'S OPEN UNTIL LATE AT NIGHT.

SHALL WE GO BUY CAKE?

end

I CAN'T.
STOP WITH THE FORMALITIES, AND LET'S JUST DO IT WITHOUT THINKING TOO MUCH!
YOU'RE TAKING THIS WAY TOO LIGHTLY!!!
Okay?
Eh?
BUT THAT'S VITAL IN THE BEGINNING.
UWAAA
AT LEAST LET ME DO THE PRE-ARRANGEMENTS. PLEASE!
SWSH
SWSH
Towel
tremble
tremble
UH,
IF BOTTOM'S MY ONLY CHOICE,
WHA...?!
He's stripping!
Strip
IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME DOING THIS, SO I WANTED TO TAKE IT SLOW AND CARE FOR YOU.
I don't want to traumatize you...
THE-
WHINE
THERE'S NO NEED TO CARE FOR ME ANY MORE THAN THIS!!!
GR
GRAVE
AB
GYAAAAA!

meeeow

Please wait for a while.

FACE ATTACK!
WA!
RUB RUB RUB

WHAT'S WITH THIS TENSION?

AHAHA!

AH.

THE SCENT OF CIGAR-ETTES.

end

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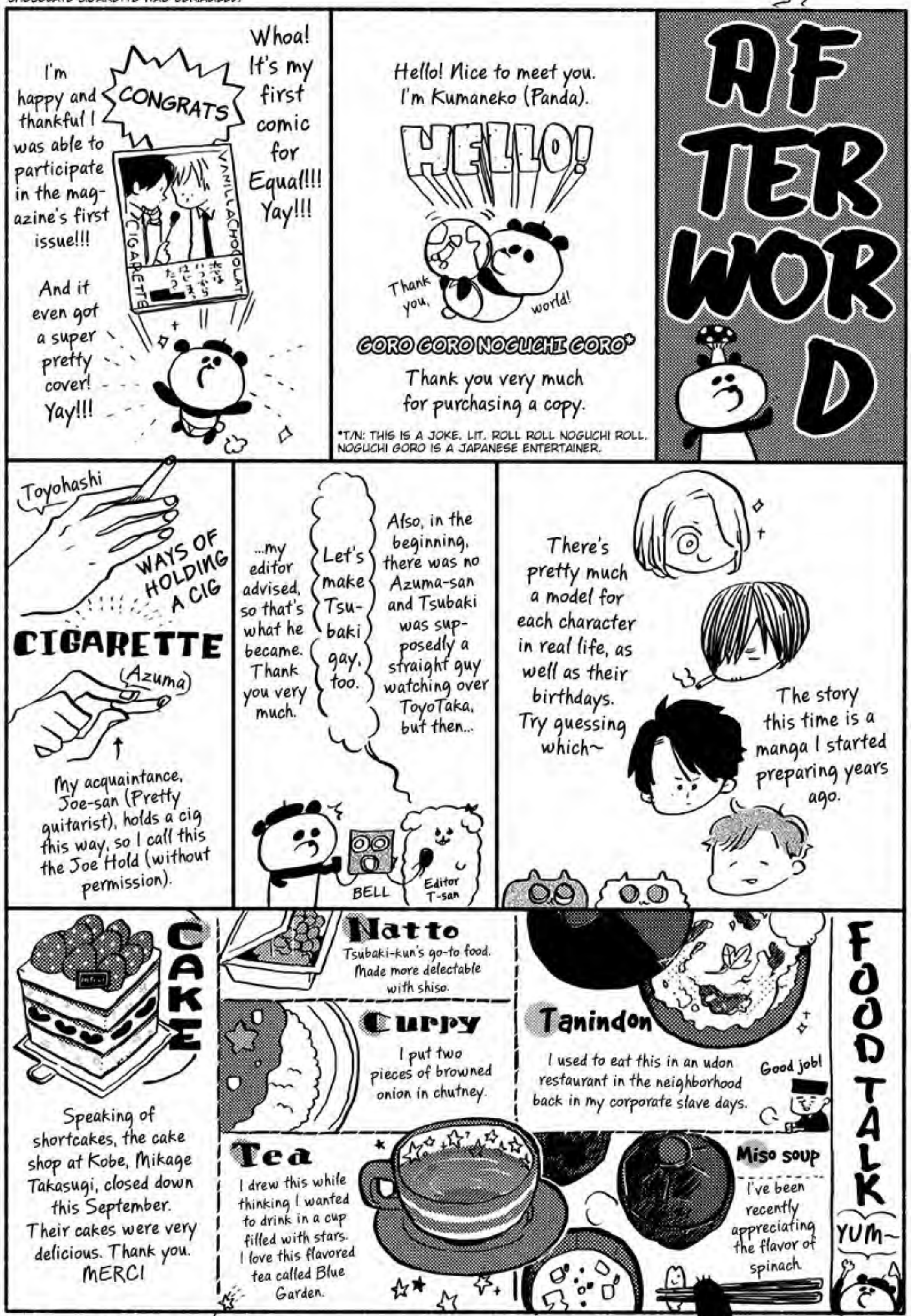
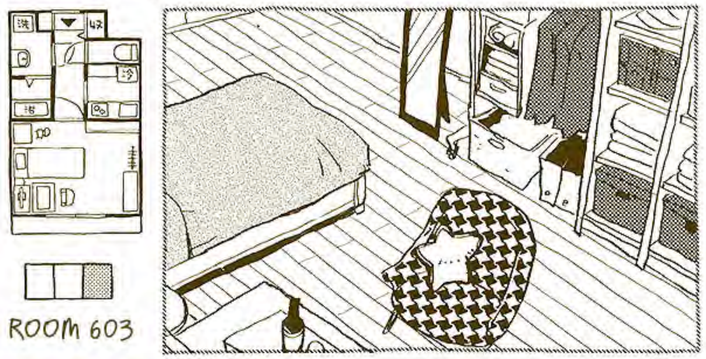
T/N: EQUAL IS THE MAGAZINE WHERE VANILLA CHOCOLATE CIGARETTE WAS SERIALIZED.



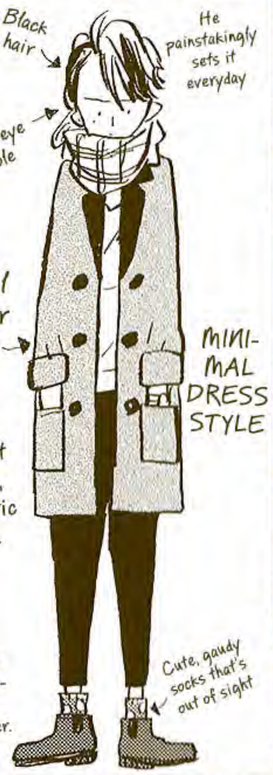
椿 遼爾

Tsubaki Ryouji
Age: 26 Blood Type A Birthday: 06/12
Height: 174cm

A person who's essentially a pushover in any way... and so, Tsubaki-kun's genesis.
Actually has a a liking for settings with star and space motifs.

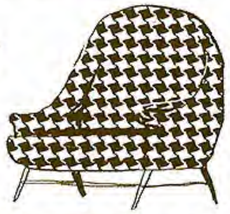


ROOM 603



PICK UP ITEM

TOASTER
For toasting bread to goodness. Tsubaki's the type to toast bread twice.

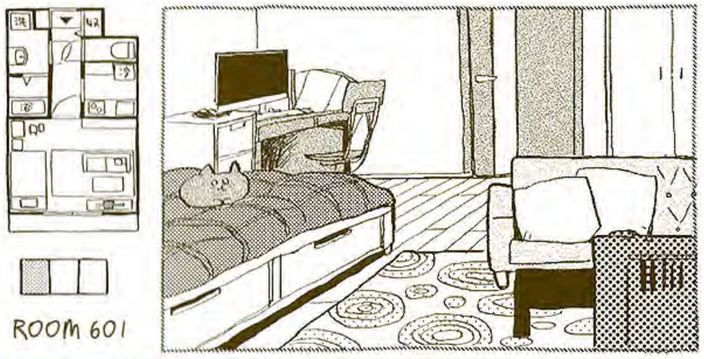


SOFA
He likes it for the grid design. Has zero communication skills, so he doesn't invite anyone over. For one person only.

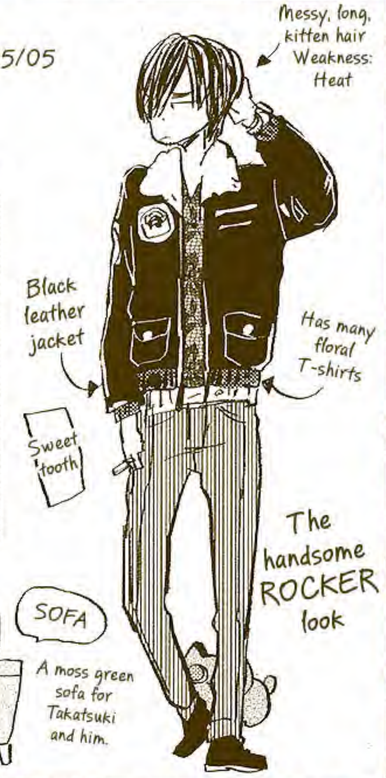
豊橋 弥

Toyohashi Wataru
Age: 32 Blood Type O Birthday: 05/05
Height: 178cm

He's not very expressive, but is the one teased the most.
Simply kind to children because he was born on Children's day. Loves cats.



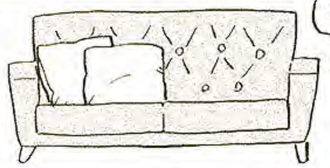
ROOM 601



PICK UP ITEM

T/N: A CHABUDAI IS A SHORT-LEGGED TABLE.

CHABUDAI
The foldable type. Tatatsuki prepares it when it's time to eat.

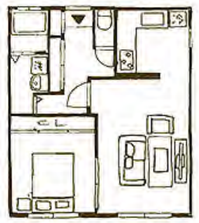


SOFA
A moss green sofa for Takatsuki and him.

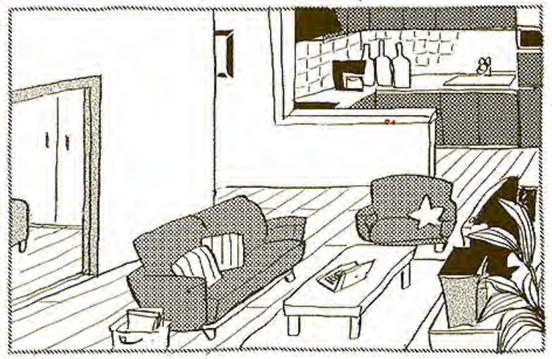
我妻拓海

Azuma Takumi
Age: 28 Blood Type B Birthday: 30/09
Height: 178cm

Tsubaki-kun's partner... for this, I contemplated whether to pair them up based on their looks or have them be the refreshing type. I remember having a drink with a friend while I brooded this over, so. He's a fan of Hiroshima Carps.

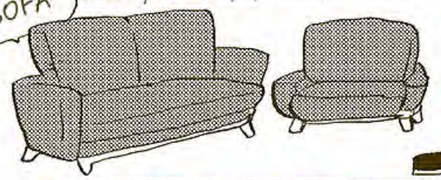


He doesn't cook but has a wide kitchen, much to Tsubaki-kun's envy...



PICK UP ITEM

TIN
A container to make booze taste great.



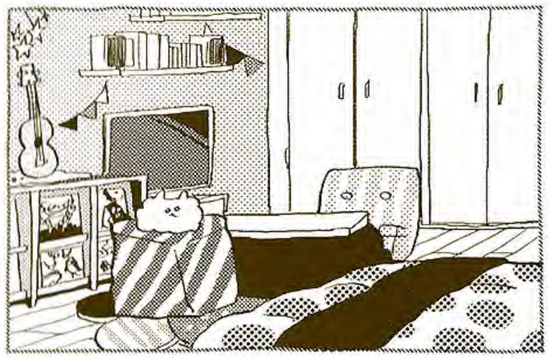
SOFA
Has many friends, so people often gather at his place.

高槻 和哉

Takatsuki Kazuya
Age: 35 Blood Type O Birthday: 06/09
Height: 170cm

When he was a kid, he would often put on skirts secretly and play with girls.
Uses the standard structure when speaking, but with the intonation of an Osakan.

ROOM 602



PICK UP ITEM

BAT
Hanshin Tigers fan. Actually made of plastic.

UKULELE
Strums this whenever he needs a breather from work.

SOFA
that makes a cat weak.

It's for us.

cult comics
equal collection
バニラ・ショコラ・シガレット
熊猫
written by Panda
笠倉出版社

VANILLA, CHOCOLATE, CIGARETTE

by KUMANEKO / PANDA

バニラ・ショコラ・シガレット

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